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AN

INQUIRY

INTO THE PRESENT STATE OF

THE

MEDICAL PROFESSION IN ENGLAND,

CONTAINING

AN ABSTRACT OF ALL THE ACTS AND CHARTERS

GRANTED TO

PHYSICIANS, SURGEONS, AND APOTHECARIES,

AND

A Comparative View of the Profession

IN

SCOTLAND, IRELAND, AND ON THE CONTINENT

OF

EUROPE.

ALSO,

A COMPENDIOUS ACCOUNT OF ITS STATE AMONGST THE

Ancient Greeks and Romans:

TENDING TO ILLUSTRATE

The urgent Necessity of Legislative Interference,

AND THE

MERITS OF THE BILL

ABOUT TO BE PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT

BY THE

APOTHECARIES AND SURGEON-APOTHECARIES

OF

ENGLAND AND WALES.

TROS TYRIUSQUE MIHI NULLO DISCRIMINE AGETUR.—VIRG.

BY ROBERT MASTERS KERRISON,

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THE

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INTRODUCTION.

TO correct error, and to prevent interested misrepresentation from assuming the appearance, or maintaining the influence of truth, are duties, which every man owes to society, and these duties become more imperatively urgent, when a question of importance is agitated; when the utility, or futility of a measure involving the interests of a very numerous and respectable body of men, and Health, the most valued possession of every individual, are the subjects of discussion.

The Apothecaries, Surgeon-Apothecaries, and educated Practitioners of Midwifery, in England and Wales, had long seen with regret, and felt with inconvenience, the effects of various encroachments upon their occupations, diminishing the fair reward of their industry, and tending to the degradation of their useful professions. In the summer of

1812, several General Meetings of them were convened in London by public advertisement, and they were unanimous in the opinion, that a necessity existed for legislative interference. It was not the conflux of a few discontented men, without practice, or public estimation, but the assemblage of nearly all the reputable practitioners in London, and many from distant counties. A Committee was appointed, for a full and deliberate investigation of the subject, and the names of Burrows, Simons, Chilver, Walker, Tegart, Upton, Pennington, Jones, Atkinson, Gardner, and of others, equally respectable, were so many pledges, both of the existence of real causes of complaint, and of the propriety of making an appeal to the justice of Parliament for redress. They had communication, personally, and by letter, with gentlemen from distant parts of the country, and meetings were held by the qualified Practitioners in almost every county of England and Wales, who appointed local Committees, to correspond with that in London, where every proposition was dis-

cussed and arranged, so as, in their opinion, to improve and to secure the respectability of the Profession, and to protect the public from the mischievous, or fatal effects, daily arising from the presumption of ignorant and unqualified pretenders, by the institution of a tribunal (not now in existence) by which every future student should be examined in those departments of the profession, which regard the duties of the prescribing Apothecary and Accoucheur, before they are permitted to assume the important office of regulating, or restoring health.

The Committee felt the delicacy of their situation, and foresaw the difficulty of their task, they endeavoured, by every possible means, to perform it fairly and honourably, without trespassing on the privileges of the chartered medical bodies. The objects of association were, therefore, explained in letters to the Royal College of Physicians, the Royal College of Surgeons, and the Society of Apothecaries; their views and intentions, unequivocally stated, and the advice and concur-

rence of these bodies respectfully solicited. It would exceed the limits of this Book, to relate the correspondence :* it may be sufficient to observe, that the Committee saw with regret, that they were treated with a coldness, bordering on contempt, and they were afterwards opposed in Parliament, and *previously* to the introduction of their Bill, by letters written to individual Members, requesting their opposition to the measure, when in the House, without assigning any reason, but resting merely upon their own assertions, that the Bill *ought to be opposed.* This proceeding might have been reasonable, two or three centuries ago, when all the medical learning of the country rested in the members of the College: but, it is neither referable to the Apothecaries and Surgeon-Apothecaries of the present day, nor, at all, consistent with

* See a Letter to Sir Francis Milman, Bart. President of the Royal College of Physicians in London, on the Subject of the proposed Improvement in the Condition of the Apothecary and Surgeon-Apothecary, by one of the Committee; printed for Callow, Crown-Court, Soho. It is an argumentative pamphlet, containing the whole Correspondence in an Appendix.

those sentiments which should, ever, be conspicuous in the dignified members of a learned Profession, and it will be seen, in the sequel, whether such opposition and conduct have not been both illiberal and unjust.

The Author takes a general review of the Professions of Medicine and Surgery from their earliest period, of their state in England at the enactment of the first law, and of the subsequent modifications and increase of power, granted to them by charter and various Acts of Parliament, which he has attentively perused, and given a correct abstract of their principal contents; he then proceeds to explain the causes, which rendered an extension of medical practice absolutely necessary, to point out the means which have long existed in the Metropolis of obtaining information in every department of medical learning, to exemplify the very general diffusion of professional knowledge, and to prove, that the relative situations of the Physician and Apothecary are, no longer, the same as they were at the time of the enactment of

those laws, *which are still suffered to regulate the medical sciences,* and, that this difference, with the prevalence of uncorrected abuses, and other causes, operating to the prejudice of the general Practitioner, as Apothecary, Surgeon-Apothecary, and Accoucheur, both by the degradation of their useful occupation and injury of the public, constitute a sufficient reason for the intended appeal to Parliament. He, afterwards, gives an account of the proceedings of the ruling members in the chartered medical establishments, animadverts on the apparent injustice of their conduct, and concludes by giving a copy of the Resolutions of the Committee as the intended bases of the Bill, and, by recommending a general concurrence for the attainment of its objects.

The Author adopted a motto of impartiality, and he has been influenced throughout this little Volume by no other sensations than those of respectful independence, equally remote from the opposition of arrogance and the acquiescence of timidity, remembering the

expressions of his favourite, Horace, when taking a comprehensive view of the faults and follies of mankind:

> " Ac ne, fortè, roges, quo me duce, quo lare tuter:
> " Nullius addictus jurare in verba magistri,
> " Quo me cunque rapit tempestas, deferor Hospes."

This sentiment was avowed by Dr. Johnson, in his admirable work, the RAMBLER, which will ever be perused with pleasure and improvement. It is a feeling, which should never be absent from the minds of those, who act from the impulse of conscientious rectitude: for, it will impart energy to their style, effect to their diction, and, ultimately, compel the enemies of truth to yield the palm of victory to meritorious exertion.

To those Noblemen and Gentlemen to whom the opportunity of fifteen years' practice at the West end of the metropolis may have made the Author personally known, he presumes, that it will be unnecessary to declare, he has no wish but such as proceed from motives of solicitude for the general

respectability of his Profession: to others, he trusts, that the facts stated will be deemed a sufficient apology for the trouble incurred in reading these few pages: and to all, he gives the best proof of his opinion of the justice of the Cause he has embraced, and of the sincerity of his endeavours to promote it, by, spontaneously, publishing the Book at his own expense, and presenting a Copy of it to every Member of both branches of the Legislature: for, he is persuaded, that there is too much individual liberality of sentiment and honourable feeling, and too much justice in a British Parliament, when in possession of the whole subject, to suffer its decision to be biassed by a partial view of any question whatever; and, although Gentlemen are often supposed to arrange their opinions in concert, upon certain great measures in foreign, or domestic, politics, from their sense of the tendency of these measures to the prosperity, or adversity of the kingdom, the Author is convinced, that, in a question

so remote from political controversy, so nearly interesting the welfare of themselves, their families, and the community, no one can be found, who will lend himself to the maintenance of the partial interests of any body of men, when they operate to the prejudice of others, equally deserving his protection; but, that every Legislator will exercise his own understanding upon a full and impartial consideration of the question, in all its bearings, and decide according to the dictates of his judgment.

New Burlington-Street,
November 11*th*, 1813.

AN

INQUIRY,

&c. &c.

CHAPTER I.

ON THE MEDICAL PROFESSION. ITS ORIGIN, PROGRESS AND ESTIMATION BY THE GREEKS AND ROMANS.

IN a state of rude nature, Man, the most perfectly organized of all animated beings, had little occasion for Medicine; but, in proportion to the increase of the human species, their association into tribes, the building of cities, the progress of civilization, and their consequences on the physical and moral state of his existence, by the creation of artificial wants, the luxurious indulgence of his appetites, and the habits of indolence, an attention to the means of regulating and preserving Health became an object of importance—of necessity. It is obvious, therefore, that a knowledge of the operative effects of a few herbs and roots constituted the first period of Medicine, that this knowledge became gradually enlarged by the chances of coincidence, and by reiterated observation, and was at last embodied into an assemblage of facts, which required attention and discernment to apply with

success, in every disturbed state of human existence, called disease. It cannot be doubted, indeed, that a science so useful in preserving life, and so desirable in rendering its tenure more tolerable under the pressure of multiplied and protracted infirmities, must soon have been held in high estimation, and its aid sought after with avidity.

It is evident, that the Egyptians collected resinous Gums and Drugs, now used in Medicine, for the preservation of their dead in mummies; it is probable, therefore, that they employed them medicinally: but there is too much fabulous obscurity in the accounts of this period to admit of correct definitions, nor does it enter into the plan of this little volume to give a detailed history of Medicine, but merely such an outline as may serve to elucidate its state amongst the most polished nations of antiquity.

In the early period of Grecian prosperity, Medicine was studied by the Philosophers, *as a part of general science;* it was understood by Pythagoras, Empedocles, and Democritus. Celsus observes "*Primòque medendi scientia sapientiæ pars habe-*" *batur.*" Hippocrates is believed to have been the first who formed it into a distinct profession: the expression of Celsus is clear on this point: "*Hip-*" *pocrates Cous, primus quidem ex omnibus memoriâ* " *dignis ab studio sapientiæ disciplinam hanc se-*" *paravit, vir, et arte, et facundiâ insignis.*" See also Pliny, *Histor. Nat. Lib.* XXVI. *Cap.* 2.

It is unnecessary to follow the progression of Medicine, and *Surgery*, as an integral part of that

science and art, practised by Hippocrates and the early physicians, through all its modifications at the different periods of the Grecian and Roman governments; it may be sufficient to know, that its necessity and utility have been acknowledged in all ages, and in every country of the civilized world, that, in the progress of literature and the liberal arts, the professors of medicine were encouraged, esteemed, and rewarded with the highest honours, which can be proved by the existence of antique coins, busts, and medals, and the recorded sentiments of ancient authors.* The deification of Æsculapius—temples built in Greece and Italy for the worship of this deity—*Tabellæ votivæ*, one of which was found on an island in the Tiber, and preserved in the Palace Maffæi, at Rome—Sacrifices to Hygæia, the Goddess of Health. About the time of Herophilus and Erasistratus (570 years before the Christian Æra) the profession was divided into three branches, professed by distinct persons: Those who studied the effects of diet only; those who administered medicines; and those employed in manual operations. The dietetic physicians were in highest repute, regulated their art by particular principles, called by Celsus "*Disciplina rationalis*," and were distinguished, on this account, by the name Μεθοδικοι: but, even those who attended to diet alone, were subdivided into another sect, who, disregarding all theory, placed

* *Neque verò Asclepiades, is quo nos medico, amicoque usi sumus, &c.* Cicero de Oratore, Lib. I.

their whole reliance on experience, drawn from attentive observation of effects: they were called Εμπειρικοι. The names and particular tenets of some of these physicians are handed down to us by Celsus, Pliny, and many ancient authors; but a medical writer of the last century has enumerated them with minute correctness.*

The Romans, a nation of warriors for many centuries after the building of their City, were late in adopting the use of the liberal arts and the study of Medicine. It was not until after the conquest of Greece, that the professors of these sciences were encouraged at Rome; and the early superiority of the Greeks in these things was evident, because all the teachers were from that nation, or were Romans who had studied under them: even so late as the time of Cicero, it was the custom of the Roman nobility to send their sons to Athens, as to an University, to finish their education in literature. The institutions of Medicine, therefore, which obtained in Italy, were strictly Grecian: also the various Sects of Physicians, the Surgeon and the preparer of Medicines, and it should seem, that a subdivision existed amongst

* See *Histoire de la Medicine*, by Le Clerc, a correct and elaborate work in a thick quarto volume, published early in the last century, which may be safely consulted by those who desire information upon every thing relative to the medical, surgical, and dietetic practice of the ancient Physicians; it contains a chronological account of the science, and its principal professors in the Egyptian, Grecian, and Roman States, compiled from the most authentic documents, and is, altogether, a book of great merit.

those who were employed about drugs. Φαρμακευτης was the name given to the preparer of Medicines; Φαρμακοπωλης to him who sold them, which exactly corresponds with the English word Drug-seller, or Druggist. It is evident also, that, in the time of Celsus and Galen, the prescriber of medicines was often responsible for their preparation. Galen, who lived at Rome in the second century of the Christian Æra, and was physician to the Emperor Marcus Aurelius, mentions one Cassius, a physician of celebrity in that city, who kept a slave for such purpose.

A storehouse, whether for grain or other commodities, was called in Greek Αποθηκη. The word *Apotheca* was used in this sense by Horace, Sat. 6. Lib. II.; Pliny also uses *Apotheca* to signify a vat, or reservoir for wine; by an extended acceptation, however, the repositories for herbs, drugs, and their compositions, were more definitively named Αποθηκαι; hence was derived the Latin word *Apothecarius*, in French *Apothécaire*, in English *Apothecary*; and the same radical word is employed in other modern languages to designate the person who collects, prepares, and compounds all those things which are used in the cure of diseases.

After the fall of the Roman Empire, the study of Medicine was nearly discontinued for many centuries; it was partially cultivated by the Arabians, from the fragments of Grecian and Roman writers which escaped the indiscriminate ruin of all literary

and scientific establishments: in after ages, medical knowledge was possessed by the clergy, and practised by them in a limited and defective manner; and it was ultimately restored to full vigour in those regions, where the liberal arts began to revive: first in Italy, afterwards in France and other countries of Europe. Medical Schools were established at Salernum, Padua, Bologna, Montpellier, Paris, Leyden, Edinburgh, and last, although not least, whether estimated by the celebrity of its teachers, or the opportunities of scientific research, in LONDON.

There is so close a connection between all the branches of medical science, that, whatever artificial distinctions may have been made by the ancients, and imitated by the moderns, or suggested as convenient in large cities, Medicine and Surgery must have been always, and are now understood by one and the same person. The man of scholastic learning in an University, who is designed for a Physician, *must* afterwards attend lectures on Anatomy, he *must* dissect, to examine the structure of that most admirably arranged machine, the human body, and investigate the means, by which its various functions are performed (Physiology) or he will be ill qualified to regulate them, when interrupted by disease:* he *must* attend the practice of

* ——*eum verò recte curaturum, quem prima origo causæ non fefellerit.* Cels. Lib. I.

an Hospital, to see patients in every state of simple and complicated malady, and to witness the effects of those agents, or medicines, which are best adapted to remove them; and if, *from prospective advantages, or other motives of preference*, by making a selection of the particular department of prescribing *for internal disorders only*, he is called a PHYSICIAN, he is nevertheless acquainted with the general principles of Surgery, and is only deficient in that manual dexterity, which a little practice would supply, and which has always been considered the more mechanical, although not least useful, part of the medical profession. These remarks are alike applicable to the highest medical characters of antiquity, and to the Physicians, or educated practitioners, of the present time, in England, Scotland, and Ireland, whether Fellows, who obtained their *literary* education within the walls of a College, or Licentiates and others, who have become, perhaps, equally versed in that necessary and preliminary knowledge from other sources of instruction. Hippocrates united Medicine, Surgery, and Midwifery, in his own practice, and wrote on all these subjects. Celsus, a Surgeon, who also wrote on the practice of physic at the most flourishing period of the Roman Empire, bears testimony to the intimate connection between all the departments of the medical art, in these words: "*Illud ante omnia scire convenit, quod omnes medi-*
"*cinæ partes ita innexæ sunt, ut ex toto separari non*

" *possint; sed ab eo nomen trahant, à quo plurimum* " *petunt.*" Lib. V. *præfat.**

* There is a passage in Cicero, recommending the attainment of general knowledge, and noticing the artificial subdivisions of the medical art at Rome, into Physicians, Surgeons, and Oculists: " *An* " *tu existimas cùm esset Hippocrates ille Cous, fuisse tum alios* " *medicos, qui morbis, alios, qui vulneribus, alios, qui oculis mede-* " *rentur?*" De Oratore, Lib. III.

CHAPTER II.

ON THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN ENGLAND AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 16TH CENTURY, AND THE VARIOUS ACTS OF PARLIAMENT, OR CHARTERS, CONCERNING IT.

THE approach towards perfection is gradual. The dawn of learning had scarcely appeared in England, when those men, who devoted their lives to the medical profession, first by the attainment of classical learning at the University of Oxford, or of Cambridge, *where only it could then be fully obtained*, and *afterwards* by the study of Medicine at Padua, or other foreign Medical Schools, *where only it was then publicly taught*, were induced, on returning to their own country, to solicit an honourable distinction. It will be found, therefore, that in the third year of the reign of Henry VIII. (1511) an Act was made to prevent illiterate or unqualified persons from practising as Physicians and Surgeons. The Bishop of London, or, in his place, the Dean of St. Paul's, was invested with a power to call four Doctors of Physic, and for Surgery, "other expert persons of that faculty," to examine those, who wished to practise. The Bishop, or Dean, may be considered to have acted as President during the examination of the candidate by the Physicians and Surgeons, to have

been an impartial judge of the fairness of the scrutiny, and to have decided the question of fitness or unfitness to practise the profession of medicine and surgery. Their jurisdiction was in London, and within seven miles.*

This was soon followed by another Act (1513) which merely exonerated *Surgeons* from the necessity of attending juries and serving in parochial offices, on account of the uncertainty of their calls and the urgency of their duties. Henry VIII. a Prince of energy in government, although much distracted by religious feuds and matrimonial controversies, was not unmindful of the liberal arts; he may be justly considered an early and steady protector of the medical profession; for in 1522, he enacted another law to increase the privileges and authority of the Physicans of London, by erecting them into a corporate body, with a President, Fellowship, and eight Elects. The President and three Elects were deputed to examine candidates, and grant or refuse them permission to practise.

In the year 1540 (32d of Henry VIII.) there was a new Act in favour of *Physicians* and their

* This may be considered the first Act of Parliament for the establishment of a body of regularly educated medical practitioners in England, although certain individuals had been previously acknowledged and admitted as Physicians and Surgeons to several preceding Kings and Princes. John Arundel, John Saceby, William Hatcliffe, were Physicians to Henry VI. and Robert Warren and John Marshall were appointed Surgeons to his Majesty.—See *Rymer's Fœdera.*

privileges: by this they were exonerated from the necessity of attendance on juries and parochial offices: they were empowered to search "apothe-"cary wares," and to destroy such as were found of bad quality: four *Censors* were to be annually appointed for that purpose. The Physicians were authorized by this Act to practise Surgery by the following words: "And forasmuch as the science "of Physic doth comprehend, include, and contain "the knowledge of Surgery, as a special member "and part of the same."

In this year another Act was passed for "Barbers "and Surgeons." The objects of it were to unite the Barbers and Surgeons into one company, to exonerate them from the duties of watch and ward, attendance on juries, and of bearing arms; to take, annually, four bodies of condemned persons "for anatomies;" to interdict *Surgeons* from shaving, lest they should communicate infectious diseases to people resorting to their shop; and, also, to prevent Barbers from performing any Surgical operation, except drawing teeth. The Surgeons were enjoined to put an "open sign on "the street side where they shall fortune to "dwell," to inform people where to obtain prompt assistance.*

* The long pole, with a painted band in a spiral direction from top to bottom, still observed at the door of the village barber, is one of the insignia of the Surgeon's art, and a relick of this law. The fillet is intended to represent the bandage for the arm, the pole to be held as a support, during the operation of bleeding.

A Bill was passed in the 34th and 35th of this reign to enable charitable persons to administer certain medicines for the relief of the poor, "only "for neighbourhood and God's sake, and of pity "and charity," and also to apply external remedies, without being liable to suit or penalty.

An Act was made in the 1st of Queen Mary, (anno 1553) recapitulating the last charter to Physicians, giving them the power of committing offenders to prison, and of levying penalties on those who resisted their search for "potticary "wares, drugs, and compositions." Magistrates and parochial officers were ordered to assist the President and Censors of the College of Physicians in their search.

A charter was granted in the 7th year of Elizabeth to the College of Physicians, permitting them to have four bodies of malefactors, who had suffered the sentence of the law on account of homicide or felony, for dissection annually. The Act is in Latin, and worded thus: "*Quod habeant* "*et accipiant, annuatim, temporibus futuris im-* "*perpetuum, unâ vice, vel diversis anni vicibus ad* "*discretionem, voluntatem et libertatem prædicti* "*presidentis.*" The object of this grant was to improve the knowledge of the medical art; it is thus *literally* expressed in the charter, "— *ad* "*incrementum cognicionis medicine experimentum* "*ejusdem et ad salutem ligeorum nostrorum sine* "*contradictione alicujus, et hoc absque ulla pecu-* "*niarum summâ vel ullis pecuniarum summis, pro*

"*eisdem reddend', seu cuicumque solvend'.*"—The President and Fellows of the College were enjoined to commit the bodies decently to the earth at their own expense after the investigation, or dissection.

A charter was granted in the 4th of James I. (anno 1607) the object of this was to form the Grocers and Apothecaries of London into one Company, by the name of the Grocers of the City of London, as expressed, "for the profit, com-"modity, and relief of the good and honest, and "for the terror and correction of the evil, deceit-"ful, and dishonest."

In the year 1616, being the 13th of James I. another charter was made, to separate the Apothecaries from the Grocers, and form them into a distinct company. This charter was granted at the request of certain Apothecaries, and the recommendation of Doctors Mayerne and Atkins, Physicians to his Majesty: its principal objects were to exclude ignorant persons, and punish those who sold bad medicines. The provisions are judicious and explicit, and such as, if duly enforced, would have prevented the nefarious practices of trading chemists and druggists (see Chapter VI.) and the admission of unqualified persons, calling themselves Apothecaries. The act is in Latin, and expresses in the preamble: "*Quod hisce proximis annis quamplurimis, em-*"*pirici et homines ignari et inexperti in civitate* "*nostra* LONDON, *et ejusdem suburbiis inhabitant* "*et commorantur, qui in pharmacopoli arte et*

"*mysterio haud instituti, sed in eâdem imperiti* "*et rudes, insalubria, nociva, falsa, corrupta, et* "*perniciosa, faciunt et componunt medicamenta,*" &c. Its provisions were in the usual form, to elect a Master, Wardens, and proper officers; to enable them to make bye-laws, to take apprentices, levy fines and penalties upon delinquents. It ordains, that no Grocer shall keep an apothecary's shop; that every Apothecary shall have served an apprenticeship of seven years, before he is permitted to keep a shop, or to act as an apothecary, that every apprentice, *at the expiration of his apprenticeship*, must be examined before the Master and Wardens, to *ascertain his fitness*, before he is suffered to commence business.

The Act, also, invests the chartered body with a power to examine all apothecaries' shops for medicines: "*— et ad supervidend', scrutand', et pro-* "*band', si eadem medicamenta simplicia, merces,* "*drogma, &c. sint, aut erunt bona, salubria, medi-* "*cinibilia, apta et idonea ad curam, salutem et* "*relevamen subditorum nostrorum.*" It contains a clause permitting Surgeons to have such medicines as are by them employed for external purposes; but prohibits Surgeons from selling, or exposing them to sale in a shop; these privileges being exclusively in favour of Apothecaries.

In 1618, being the 15th of James I. a charter was granted to the College of Physicians, confirming the privileges and immunities of all the previous Acts, and investing it with a power to call before

the President and Commonalty all Apothecaries and dealers in Medicines, to judge of their qualifications, to punish delinquents by fine and imprisonment. The Apothecaries were compelled to testify against unlawful practisers of physic, and to forfeit twenty shillings if they refused to do so.

In the 15th year of Charles II. a new charter was granted to Physicians, in the name of "The "President, Fellowes, and Commonaltye of the "King's College of Physicians in the Cittie of "London." This charter, in the preamble, confirmed them in all former powers and immunities, augmented the number of Fellows to forty, the Elects to ten, including four Censors: it described with much precision, the future regulation of college-affairs, both respecting its internal management and its control over illegal and unqualified practisers of physic, venders and compounders of drugs, who are rendered liable to fine and imprisonment.

In the 6th year of William III. (1694) an Act was made to exempt *Apothecaries* from serving the offices of constable, scavenger, and other parish and ward duties, and from attendance upon juries. The reasons adduced for the expediency of this Act are expressed in the following words: "Whereas the art of the Apothecary is of great "and general use and benefit, by reason of their "constant and necessary assistance to his Majesty's "subjects, which should oblige them solely to "attend to the duties of their profession," &c.—

The same exceptions were extended to country Apothecaries *who had served an apprenticeship of seven years.*

In the 18th year of George II. (1745) an Act was made to separate the Surgeons from the Barbers' Company; these had been united in the 32d of Henry VIII. (1540.) The reasons stated in the preamble are, that "Those of the said com-"pany practising Surgery have, from their sole "and constant study of an application to the said "science rendered the profession and practice "thereof of great benefit to this kingdom, and "whereas the Barbers belonging to the said Cor-"poration are now, and for many years have been "engaged and employed in a business foreign to, "and independent of the practice of Surgery," &c. This Act provided the Corporation of Surgeons with a power to choose a Master, Governors, and Assistants, to hold courts, make bye-laws, appoint Examiners, and to fulfil the duties of their association from the 24th of June, 1745. It granted them the usual exemption from parochial duties, military service, and attendance on juries.

The last statute relating to Surgeons was passed in the 40th year of his present Majesty, dated 22d of March, 1800, and establishes them by the name of *The Royal College of Surgeons in London.* The preamble of this Act recapitulates and confirms all the previous grants to Surgeons, invests the College with a power to manage its own affairs, by a principal Master, two Governors, and

a Court of Assistants, to make bye-laws, appoint Examiners, and take fees for the examination of those, who are desirous of being admitted Members, and also candidates for the service of the Army and Navy.

These being the only *statutes* made for the regulation of the medical profession, and *charters* granted to the Physicians and Surgeons of England, it remains to be seen, in what manner the intentions of their enactment have been fulfilled, and whether they are fully adequate and properly adapted to supply the indispensable wants of the public *in the present state of society*, by providing a sufficient number of duly educated practitioners in Medicine and Surgery, to ascertain their qualifications, to distinguish them from illiterate and ignorant pretenders, *to secure to them the entire management of the sick, and to afford an effectual protection to the public* from the dangerous, and often fatal interference of an immense multitude of persons, who daily presume to regulate and restore health, without possessing a knowledge of the only principles which can afford a reasonable hope of success.

The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge confer degrees of *Doctor in Medicine*, rather by distinction, as a course of academic discipline from theoretic doctrines, than as a consequence of full qualification in the art of curing diseases, there being no *efficient* school of medicine or anatomy in either University: and these Doctors

become candidates, and are admitted as Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians in London, without any farther examination than such as they had sustained at the University: they enjoy all the emoluments of the College, and, *exclusively*, regulate its affairs. After leaving the University, or during the interval of keeping the terms, they *always* go through a course of anatomical and medical studies, in London or Edinburgh. What stronger evidence, what better proof need be adduced of the present superiority of LONDON, as a medical school for practical instruction? The means by which it has become so, *since the first establishment of the College of Physicians*, will be explained in the next chapter.

CHAPTER III.

ON THE CAUSES OF A NECESSITY FOR THE EXTENSION OF MEDICAL INTERFERENCE.—PROCEEDINGS OF THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.—FIRST ASSUMPTION OF THE PRESCRIBING APOTHECARY; HIS FORMER AND PRESENT MEANS OF OBTAINING INFORMATION IN ANATOMY, SURGERY, AND THE PRACTICE OF PHYSIC, IN LONDON.

IT may be assumed, without the suspicion of inaccuracy, that the state of society in England, at the period of the first incorporation of the Physicians in the reign of Henry VIII. was widely different from that of the present time. Just emerging from the trammels of feudal vassalage, and not then enriched by the establishment of extensive manufactories and abundant foreign commerce, the nation consisted of the nobility and a few opulent citizens; the people were miserably poor: their plain fare, and coarse, but warm, woollen clothing, prevented them from suffering under many infirmities, which persons in a similar class of life are now liable to, by the more general use of spirituous liquors, and other enervating habits, the inevitable result of increasing national opulence, which have long been, and continue to be, operating, particularly in large towns, as manifold causes of indisposition and disease.

The Physicians at the period alluded to, were not numerous; they held a rank in society next below the younger branches of noble families (still maintained in the annals of precedence at court); were highly esteemed and duly rewarded; for their practice was amongst the nobility and rich citizens. The poor and general community, not possessing the means of obtaining the advice of the learned, by giving an adequate remuneration, usually committed themselves to the management of those illiterate persons, who, in every country, and at all times, have had their traditionary nostrums of herbs and compounds, and they must have frequently perished from the want of judicious aid, or have been destroyed by the temerity of mountebanks, and other dangerous pretenders; for the principal hospitals now in London, and other cities of England, were not then in existence.*

* St. Bartholomew's Hospital was founded by Henry VIII. in 1539, and rebuilt by subscription in 1729. It is adapted for the reception of more than 400 patients.

St. Thomas's Hospital was founded in the reign of Edward VI. 1553, and can accommodate 460 patients.

Bethlem Hospital, in Moorfields, for the reception of insane persons, was founded in the reign of Edward VI. and rebuilt in 1676.

The Westminster Hospital, near Buckingham-Gate, was instituted in 1719, and has been always supported by voluntary contributions.

Guy's Hospital was built and endowed in 1721, at the sole expense of Thomas Guy, Esq. formerly a bookseller in London: it contains 430 beds, besides a ward for lunatics.

St. George's Hospital was opened for the reception of patients in 1734: it contains above 250 beds. The building is now under re-

In succeeding reigns, particularly during the pacific government of Queen Elizabeth, the progression of commercial prosperity, and the increasing population of England, were conspicuous,*

pair for its general improvement, and it is expected to be soon enlarged, in consequence of the munificent gift of a late testator.

The London Hospital was instituted in 1740, and built in the Whitechapel Road, at the east end of the metropolis: it contains about 260 beds.

The Middlesex Hospital was instituted in 1745, and contains 150 beds.

The Lock Hospital was established in 1747, for venereal patients only.

The various Lying-in Hospitals and Dispensaries in different parts of the metropolis, have only been in existence since the year 1750. They are supported by annual subscriptions and the occasional bequests of charitable persons.

* In the early periods of English history, it will be found, that the principal artificers and men of scientific knowledge residing in England, were foreigners. This was not derogatory from the quality of mind of the natives of Britain. The revival of the arts having commenced on the continent, the inhabitants of certain parts of it were a century advanced in the establishment of manufactories and commerce. The Venetian plate-glass, the Cordovan leather, the Toledo steel, &c. are proofs of this early superiority, which has long ceased to exist, by the unremitting industry and commercial enterprise of England. In the reign of Henry VIII. it was alleged as a complaint, that the natives could not support themselves by trade, on account of the superior ingenuity of foreigners.—See *Hume*, Vol. IV. page 475. The tyrannical and military government of Philip II. in the Netherlands, which were then an appendage to the Spanish crown, caused an immense emigration of cloth-weavers to England; they were encouraged by the prudent government of Elizabeth: and this may be considered the first step to the

causing a rapid augmentation of the middle classes of community, and an improved condition of the lower orders of people; and, in subsequent reigns, the influence of these causes upon the physical power and moral faculties of man, had evidently produced the effect of rendering it no longer possible for the Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians and their Licentiates *to prescribe for all who required assistance.* During this increase of general prosperity, the Physicians found a proportionate and sufficient practice amongst the opulent, *without reducing their fee, or expectations of remuneration, to the ability of the common people,* who were obliged to resort to unqualified, or unauthorised persons for medical aid, and the Apothecaries were principally applied to, as those persons, who were likely to have obtained some knowledge of diseases, and a suitable application of remedies, because the preparation of medicines from the prescriptions of Physicians, and the occasional administration of them in the sick chamber, under their direction, constituted the duties of their occupation: from

attainment of our national prosperity in the cloth trade The persecution of the Huguenots, or Protestants of France, in the reign of Lewis XIV. caused a great expulsion of useful and industrious persons, who found their way to England during the reign of William III. and brought over the improved art of silk-weaving: they were named *the French refugees,* and principally settled in that suburb of London called Spitalfields, which is now proverbial for its numerous silk-looms: hence may be dated the origin of our prosperity in this trade.

this period may be fairly dated the commencing practice of the Apothecary, as *a prescriber for those persons, who were unable to fee a physician.*

The successive extension of power obtained by the College of Physicians, in the Acts enumerated, and the pertinacious defence of their chartered privileges, as exemplified in the frequent former prosecution of irregular practitioners, and even of educated persons,* are proofs of their desire to possess the exclusive permission to practise the profession of medicine; but this must have become evidently impossible, without a very great increase of their number, and a considerable reduction of their fee; objects of serious import to the existing members of a chartered body, which, not being deemed expedient to concede, the public were abandoned to their fate. This is the only view of the subject which can account for the infrequency of prosecutions by the college within the last hundred years, by their tacit acquiescence in the *necessity* of an extended professional interference, and in the custom of consulting the Apothecary *in cases of minor importance;* for, the establishment of public lectures on anatomy in London, about that time, offered an opportunity to the Apothecary to obtain such further information as enabled him to relieve his patients with more certainty and precision than before. The great increase of teachers

* See Goodall on *The Royal College of Physicians,* a book of authority, compiled by one of its members, and containing an account of the litigations alluded to.

in London, of Anatomy and Surgery, of the practice of physic, chemistry, and all the sciences connected with the medical profession, soon rendered the metropolis (although not dignified by the appellation of an university) the best school for instruction and practical information; and those students, who had previously received a literary education, attended their classes in anatomy during the accustomed period, and had become pupils of a Surgeon and Physician in one of the public hospitals, would be as accomplished in useful knowledge, and more familiar with disease and remedy (although not called Physicians) than those, who had passed many years in an university, where little more than literature and *theory* in medicine could be obtained, or in a medical school more limited in its means of permitting anatomical research, or of affording medical and surgical information. The names of Cheselden, Douglas, William Hunter, and Nichols, professors of anatomy in London, at the beginning and middle of last century, followed by Cline and Baillie, by Cooper, Abernethy, Brooks, Carpue, and others of merited celebrity in anatomy and surgery; the names of Saunders, Fordyce, Pearson, Crighton, Babington, and Hooper, as teachers of the theory and practice of medicine and chemistry; of Orme and Lowder, Osborne, Denman, Haighton, Thynne, Clarke, and Merriman, in midwifery, are indisputable proofs that the opportunity of attaining scientific information, has long been at the command of every one, whose duty or interest

rendered it necessary to be instructed in, and fully qualified to practise, every department of the profession. It is astonishing, it must also appear extraordinary, if not ridiculous, to Foreigners, that London, the British metropolis, universally acknowledged to be the centre of perfection in every practical department of the liberal arts, the *punctum saliens* of science, should not have been, yet, dignified by the establishment of an university, and, that young men, expensively and carefully educated to the medical profession, however regular in their attendance at the lectures of the most celebrated Professors, however diligent in their researches, by patient investigation of the objects of their pursuit, in the most fruitful field of instruction. The hospitals of London, should not have been yet recognised as *legal agents* for the cure of diseases, and that, when endeavouring to obtain an honourable distinction in society, proportioned to their attainments in science, they should be avowedly, or clandestinely opposed by the *governing members* of certain bodies, chartered for the expressed purpose of improving the medical profession, and protecting the public from the dangerous effects of its abuses. May not a longer sufferance of these things be considered an insult to the metropolis, and a libel upon the nation?

The successive extension of power obtained by the Surgeons of England, and their present establishment as a Royal College, render it obvious, that such a body is invested with *a power to protect its*

own members, and to enable them to recover a reasonable sum in the Courts of Law, in all cases of professional attendance *in their particular department*; and the term Surgeon-Apothecary, which is not used in any Act, may, at first sight, appear singular; but, when it is remembered that the Surgeons of the present day, who profess their own division of the healing art, and do not unite Pharmacy with it, are small in number, that they receive fees as large and as frequently as Physicians, and expect to be paid at an high, although not undeserved rate, in cases of general attendance, that they are usually Hospital-Surgeons, or Lecturers on Anatomy, moving in an elevated sphere of life; it becomes evident, that the services of a practitioner of this description, *on every occasion*, like those of the Physician, are attainable only by patients of a certain class—The Opulent.—The same reasons, therefore, which compelled the public to seek relief from the Apothecary in medical cases, induced them to solicit surgical assistance *in affairs of minor importance*, and became a motive for the Apothecary to qualify himself by study and observation, as before explained, to manage such cases at less comparative expense to his patients, and, on extraordinary occasions, to request the concurrence, or assistance of an Hospital-Surgeon.

The Apothecary, by rendering himself qualified, passing an examination in the Corporation or College of Surgeons, and adding Surgery to Pharmacy, became a Surgeon-Apothecary, or general

practitioner: for there is no provision in the laws of the College of Surgeons *in England* to prevent its members from practising as Apothecaries, nor in the charter of Apothecaries to restrain its members from studying surgery. The *medical* practice, however, was first assumed by Apothecaries, whom the Author, on that account calls *prescribing* Apothecaries; "He is the physician to the poor, at all times, and to the rich, whenever the disease is without danger."—*Dr. A. Smith's Wealth of Nations.* The Surgeons remained longer a distinct branch of the profession, but they have been gradually combining the practice of physic with their art, and now constitute the most numerous class of general practitioners in England and Wales.

The knowledge of Medicine and Surgery, then, has become widely diffused. Individual excellence will always exist in these, as in other sciences; superiority will be obtained by quickness of perception, by steady, and patient attention to the subjects of observation and the objects of research: but it is obvious, it must be conceded by impartial and unprejudiced persons, that every young man of moderate capacity, who had received a literary education, served an apprenticeship to a respectable Apothecary, then dissected under a teacher of Anatomy, attended the various lectures in London upon the practice of Physic, Surgery, Chemistry, and sciences connected with medicine, frequented the wards of an Hospital during at least twelve months, and afterwards passed an approved

examination before a board consisting of Physicians, Surgeons, and Apothecaries, *(a tribunal not now in existence, and which it is the principal object of the present association of Surgeon-Apothecaries to institute, under the sanction of Parliament,)* would be competent to discharge the manifold duties of a Surgeon-Apothecary, or general practitioner, with honour to himself and advantage to the Public; and that he would be, in reality, a man of the same class as those who obtained the first charter of incorporation as Physicians under Henry VIII. designated as persons learned in the science of physic and the knowledge of surgery, "as a special "member and part of the same."

CHAPTER IV.

ON THE UTILITY OF THE PRESCRIBING APOTHECARY, SURGEON-APOTHECARY, AND GENERAL PRACTITIONER.

THE association of ideas with terms, or of names and things, is often continued after their relative connections are much altered; and this change is not always perceived, even by contemplative persons, until their attention is directed to it by a fortuitous event. The name of Apothecary, originally given to a mere compounder of medicines, and strictly referable to him in England two centuries ago, when their charter was first granted, has been imperceptibly continued, and is still indiscriminately used, to designate those also, who have gone through the regular medical education already described, and who are fully qualified, and daily accustomed to direct the application of medicines for the removal of every disease incident to the human body, by first prescribing and then superintending the preparation of their remedies, according to the usage of the primitive physicians.

The medical character, whether Physician, Surgeon, or Prescribing Apothecary, should be a man of integrity, urbanity, and sedateness, patient of fatigue, and ever ready to extend the beneficial influence of his art upon principles of enlarged

philanthropy:* he must necessarily sustain many privations of comfort and of rest by the sudden and urgent calls to administer relief, and, indeed, to be extensively useful, he must often indulge his better feelings at the expense of his convenience, by affording assistance, without the hope, or expectation of pecuniary reward.

In a climate of proverbial diversity, with numerous manufacturing towns of superabundant population, requiring large associations in workshops, and confined air in the pursuits of unhealthy trades: In a country of much general opulence, which enables tens of thousands of individuals to lead a life of luxurious ease, partial or general, more or less removed from a state of nature, both in diet and exercise, the functions of the human body will be very frequently deranged, and require the aid of those, who are skilled in the motions of its complex machinery to regulate them, with rational expectation of success: it becomes, therefore, an object of serious consequence to community, of real importance in the strength of a nation, and, *on these accounts*, of proper consideration to Legislators, that this high trust should be committed to those men only, who have given proofs of ability to fulfil their assumed duties, and, it will not be denied, that they should be held to the discharge of those duties by a heavy responsibility.

* From the period of Hippocrates to the present time, these sentiments have been inculcated, and, by the generality of regular practitioners, remembered and closely followed. See the works of Hippocrates, ὁ ορκος—περι ἰητρου—περι ευσχημονης, also Dr. Gregory's *Duties of a Physician*, and Dr. Perceval's *Medical Ethics*.

The establishment of Physicians, and their limited sphere of practice, having been distinctly shown, and those causes explained, which rendered the extension of medical assistance absolutely necessary for the welfare of community; the period of the first assumption of a large body of men (the prescribing Apothecaries, or Surgeon-Apothecaries) to the important task of regulating the Health of the middle and lower orders of society on general occasions, and their present means of becoming qualified for its performances elucidated; it may be desirable to ascertain the principles on which the services of such a body of educated practitioners can be made most useful to the public; by which means they can be clearly distinguished from those, who affect their name without possessing the requisite qualifications, thus committing a double fraud, first upon the community, by their ignorant and dangerous presumption; and, secondly, upon the regular members of the medical profession, by abstracting a portion of their occupation, and degrading the general estimation of a learned and liberal art.

The Collegiate Physician will always retain the most distinguished rank in the medical profession. The Professor of Anatomy, being usually an Hospital-Surgeon, in the daily, or frequent habit of performing the great or difficult operations, must ever maintain a superior distinction in his line of practice. The remuneration for their services is proportioned to the estimation of their talents; it has always been, and must continue to be, great.

Since, therefore, the Physician and the *mere* Surgeon can only be feed by a small proportion of community as often as their attendance may be necessary to restore health, or regulate it under protracted suffering, the alternative is, either to reduce their demand to the circumstances of the generality of patients, or to recognise and support a body of men, who are ready to give proof of having acquired sufficient knowledge to enable them to do the duty of physicians, in ordinary cases, at a rate of charge better suited to the ability of their patients to bear. And these persons, the Surgeon-Apothecaries, are rather compensated by the multiplicity of practice, than by the expense to individuals; they have thus become the general practitioners throughout England and Wales: so that the health of, at least, nineteen of every twenty patients, is now regulated by them *alone:* but in cases of difficulty, doubt, or danger, they request the assistance of a physician, and, in surgical affairs, of an Hospital Surgeon.

This may be relied on, as a correct account of the present relative situation of the practitioners of Medicine and Surgery in London, and the cities, or large towns of England and Wales. There are a few, who confine themselves to particular departments of Surgery, and are called, Oculists, Cuppers, and Dentists; and even some are self-named Aurists, and Chiropedists; but these artificial subdivisions have obtained, rather from convenience than necessity: they can only exist in large towns, and the latter are unknown out of the metropolis.

CHAPTER V.

ON THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE AND SURGERY IN PROVINCIAL DISTRICTS.—THE PREVALENT CUSTOM OF OVERSEERS IN CONTRACTING FOR THE MEDICAL CARE OF PARISH PAUPERS.—ITS DEFECTS AND ABUSES.

IT has been seen that the opportunities of obtaining Medical and Surgical information in London, are very ample, and sufficient for every useful purpose of professional life. A great number of young men annually come to the metropolis from various districts of England and Wales, and from other parts of the British Empire, to complete their education by a course of study, which can be proved by the certificates they possess of Lecturers and Hospital-Surgeons. These persons, if they have imbibed early instruction by an apprenticeship, and been diligent in their attendance on the Professors in London, return to their local connections, usually, as well qualified to practise as their age will permit; and, being acquainted with the principles of science, every day's experience rapidly increases their knowledge, so that, by attentive observation, they soon become able practitioners, resident in various parts of the country.

This is the proceeding of the well-educated Surgeon-Apothecary; but many young men *have not* served an apprenticeship; others remain too short

a time in London to completely fulfil the intention of their journey, and return imperfectly qualified to practise their profession; and, as *there is not any tribunal to which they are accountable for their attainments in the knowledge of the practice of physic and of midwifery*, every one may learn as much or as little as it may please him. It is not surprising, therefore, that the indolent and the volatile, frequently, avail themselves of this latitude to indulge their propensities, at a period of life when the passions are most predominant, too often presuming, that, if they have remained the full term of study, they have *a right* to be considered competent. To render diligence *indispensable* to honourable distinction, and to insist on the qualification of every individual to whom the public may entrust themselves with the most rational hope of successful care, have been objects to which the Committee Associated Surgeon-Apothecaries are directing their principal attention.—(See their Resolutions in Chapter X.) Many young men obtain a partial or general education, and go into the Army and Navy as Assistant-Surgeons, or Hospital-Mates; and, in due time, are promoted to the care of battalions and garrisons: but the difficulty of obtaining able assistants for these important services, is extreme: for, it is a lamentable fact, that the indirect encouragement given to pretenders, by the apathy of the legalized medical authorities, has often deterred the parents of young men of respectable families, and good education, from placing them in

a profession, which, as it is now constituted, neither offers the certainty of an honourable distinction, nor of a preference in the employment of their time, and exercise of their talents, after a long and expensive, but necessary and useful, education to the duties of their life.

The practice of the profession in small towns and villages of England and Wales, amongst wealthy residents, being very limited, the care of the parochial poor becomes an object of consideration. The general competition amongst *educated* practitioners, would be sufficient to insure the performance of the duty at a moderate charge; but it has been the prevalent custom of Overseers, usually farmers and illiterate traders, who have not correct notions of the true medical character, to receive annual tenders, at Easter, for the medical care of the sick poor of the district, and, regardless of their comparative merits, the lowest bidder is the successful candidate. The certain effect of this usage is, to throw the general management of paupers into improper hands. Competition ceases to be fair when its conditions are, not equal, and, as the time of an irregular, or a partially qualified man, is not intrinsically worth so much as that of the regular practitioner, those people avail themselves of this opportunity of a medical introduction into the families of the Overseers and farmers, by whom they are mostly employed, when dignified by the name of the Parish-Doctor, by undertaking a task which they are not qualified to perform, upon

terms which are totally inadequate to pay even for the cost of the medicine required in the judicious execution of the duties. The Author is in possession of letters from SUSSEX, KENT, WORCESTERSHIRE, ESSEX, LINCOLNSHIRE, DORSETSHIRE, DEVONSHIRE, YORKSHIRE, HAMPSHIRE, MONTGOMERYSHIRE, and SUFFOLK, *all written within the present year*, which elucidate this subject, by describing and giving instances of the unfeeling conduct of overseers, and the gross ignorance and culpable negligence of such Parish-Doctors, in terms of accurate definition and just reprehension. Well might a living poet exclaim, in his description of one of these wretches,

> " A potent quack, long versed in human ills,
> " Who first insults the victim whom he kills,
> " Whose murderous hand a drowsy bench protect
> " And whose most tender mercy is neglect."

The encouragement given to such men in the country, must be a cause of reasonable complaint to all regular practitioners, by a partial abstraction of their occupation: it must also be a prolific source of private misery, and even of public calamity, until it can be proved, that the well-being of the poor has no reference to the strength of the nation.*

* A letter from Weymouth, after noticing the general apathy of Overseers, and their shameful neglect of the poor, respecting medical assistance, observes, that an impudent quack in that neighbourhood has the management of the paupers of a parish, by order of the

When the duly educated Surgeon-Apothecary shall be recognised in his proper character, and protected by the operation of just and equal laws, these abuses will cease to exist, and, in the interval, the Author would advise those Gentlemen, who represent counties and towns in Parliament, and those, likewise, who act as Justices of the Peace in the country, to exercise their philanthropy, by endeavouring to lessen the weight of poverty in recommending, or *insisting*, that none, except properly qualified persons, be employed in the medical care of parish-paupers.

The number of uneducated persons, who exercise the profession of Medicine and Surgery in its various departments, is almost incredible to those, who have not investigated the subject. When an inquiry was instituted in Lincolnshire, in 1804, to ascertain the particulars: Dr. Fawssett was appointed Vice-President for the Horncastle distrist, and made his report, that, in his division, including the market-towns of Horncastle, Spilsby, Alford and Tattershall, there were five physicians, all graduates of Scotland, eleven Surgeon-Apothecaries, twenty-five Druggists, forty irregulars of both sexes, over and above the Druggists, sixty-three Midwives, *not one of whom had received any instructions:* making an

Overseers: he was a Barber, then an Inn-keeper, now a Farmer and Parish-doctor! The same intelligent writer gives an account of a patient who came under his care: An untaught midwife had been attempting to facilitate the birth of an infant, by using a pair of scissars! The mother was rescued by judicious aid: the child was already lost.

aggregate of 144 persons, exercising medicine for gain in that district, of whom only *one in nine* had been previously educated for the profession. Mr. Shuttleworth, Vice-President for the Market-Razon district, comprehending the market-towns of Wragby, Razon, and Castor, reported, that no Physician resided in his division: seven regular practitioners as Surgeon-Apothecaries, nine Druggists, *one* of whom served an apprenticeship, seventeen irregulars of both sexes, over and above the Druggists: one of the men follows Midwifery; thirty-two Midwives, not one of whom had received any instructions: in all, sixty-five persons, exercising medicine for gain, of whom, not one in nine had been previously educated for the profession. The example of Lincolnshire may serve for that of other counties. In the enumeration of persons, who exercise medicine for profit, without a previous education, it is to be understood, that the employment of many may be very limited, and of some not entirely confined to it as the means of existence: yet, when it is considered, that each individual, through ignorance of proper means, and misapplication of active remedies, may destroy, at least, one person annually, and ruin the health of many more, what a frightful calculation of human affliction forces itself upon our notice! Surely this is a subject worthy of the immediate attention of Parliament. The lives of individuals are no less dear to their families, and His Majesty's subjects are no less useful to the state, in every corner of the kingdom, than in the metropolis and its precincts of seven miles.

CHAPTER VI.

ON GROCERS, DRUGGISTS, RETAIL CHEMISTS AND DRUGGISTS, AS SHOP-KEEPERS, NOT EDUCATED AS APOTHECARIES OR SURGEONS.

THE Charter of 1607 proves that the Grocers and Apothecaries were, originally, united in one corporation, and separated in 1616, by a special Act of James I. The Grocer, who imported sugar, figs, dried fruit, and spiceries, chiefly from the West Indies, Italy, and the Levant, was a merchant, who extended his orders for rhubarb, senna, and such other foreign drugs, as were employed in the practice of physic; hence arose the name *Druggist;* but the practices of these drug-dealing Grocers having became notorious, and the improving state of the science of Medicine in England, having, at this time, rendered it expedient to separate the occupations, the Apothecary was established under the auspices of the College of Physicians, as the *only legal preparer* and compounder of Medicines, with responsibility for the genuine quality of his commodities and the correctness of their preparation.

Every attentive spectator of the habits and usages of mankind must have remarked, that some occupations increase, whilst others diminish, and that all experience a fluctuation, and accommodate themselves to the fashion of the times. From the recent multiplication of retail Chemists' shops, which are

to be seen gaily decorated in every large street, principal thoroughfare, and conspicuous situation of the metropolis and provincial towns, it may be fairly presumed that this is a lucrative occupation, or they would not have become so numerous; that they will ultimately find their level, according to the maxim of that discriminating Author, Dr. Adam Smith, and stand or fall by the test of their general utility, is a truth not to be doubted: but, in the interval of their existence, it may be useful to inquire, and, at present, requisite to ascertain, how far the *new trade* of Retail Chemist and Druggist, or dispenser of Medicine, has interfered with the business of the Apothecary.

The Author disdains falsehood, he wishes to dismiss from his mind all prejudice and partiality by taking a candid view of the whole subject, convinced that the attempt to misrepresent, besides being an unworthy motive, always fails in the attainment of its object; and, that no cause can be well advocated by a distortion of argument, or interested concealment of facts: he has already acknowledged the assumption of Apothecaries to the office of the Physician *in cases of minor importance;* but he presumes that he has explained the causes leading to a necessity of their interference and proved their qualifications to perform their task with advantage to the public; he may be, therefore, permitted to inquire, whether the multiplicity of retailers, and *indiscriminate* compounders of Medicine, has become equally necessary for the

convenience of the public, and conducive to its welfare. The Author will not attempt to question the right of every individual to purchase his rhubarb and senna where it may best please him, nor to deny the privilege of sending the prescription of his Physician to the Chemist's, instead of the Apothecary's shop: This becomes an affair of choice, and, if that preference be dictated by reason, or interest, it ought to prevail, notwithstanding the murmurs and jealousy of the Apothecary. Competition is the spirit of trade, but to be fair and honourable, it should be equal, and subjected to the test of accurate discrimination.

There is a very old maxim, that "The end of trade is gain," and the means of obtaining that end being as referable to the sellers of drugs, as of every other commodity, we must presuppose a degree of moral rectitude in them, superior to that possessed by other traders, before we can be persuaded, that retail Chemists and Druggists pursue it differently from general dealers; for, it must be remembered, that *they* have no responsibility for the effects of the compound; and, provided it pass without disapprobation, are secured from reproach, or calumny; and it is an unfortunate truth, that, in proportion to the difficulty of detection, so will be the temptation to deceive. But the Apothecary, who is, usually, the personal friend of his patient, and, who watches the effect of the Medicine prescribed by himself, or prepared by him, during his co-attendance with the Physician, has a real interest

in its due operation, and of course, a regard for its intrinsic qualities and accuracy of preparation; and, although it might be presumptuous to say, that Apothecaries are more wise, or virtuous, than other men, yet it is obvious, that they would be the most immoral and profligate of community, not to be influenced by feelings and motives which cannot be equally referable to the retail Chemist and Druggist, who neither witnesses the sufferings of the patient, nor, in general, has any personal knowledge of his family.

The abuses of the drug-trade and sophistications of indiscriminate compounders of Medicine had become notorious twenty years ago, when a considerable number of Apothecaries and Surgeons entered into an investigation of the subject, with the intention of correcting them; but they were, at that time, unable to effect so laudable a purpose. It was ascertained, that the ignorance particularly of country Druggists, and drug-dealing Grocers, had been productive of lamentable and fatal effects. The Committee appointed for such investigation, had numerous proofs of the existence of frauds and abuses, and observed in their Report: "With "respect to the Druggists, they knew it to be an "incontrovertible fact, that, independent of the "varieties of the same materials, varieties of dif- "ferent value, which they keep continually in "their warehouses, and to which they have re- "course, and vend, according as circumstances "require; they knew it to be a fact, that few or

" no Druggists compound the preparations of the " Pharmacopæia of the College of Physicians, in " all cases, consistently with the express injunc- " tions of the Pharmacopæia; on the contrary, that " they have, nearly all of them, nostrums and re- " ceipts of their own, from which these prepara- " tions are compounded; preparations, indeed, " which may pass under the respective titles given " in the Pharmacopæia, and which, in general, " may elude the eye by a similarity of colour, and " sometimes, even the tongue by a similarity of " taste: but which are, in all instances, infinitely " less efficacious, and are only compounded in a " different and clandestine manner, because they " can thus be compounded much cheaper, or with " more ease.*

With a sincere wish to abstain from personalities, and to avoid giving reasonable cause of offence, but with a firm determination to expose and to reprobate whatever is considered unjust, or delusive, the Author does not hesitate to declare, that the scandalous and illegal practices alluded to in the above quotation, still prevail to a dreadful extent. Let the Censors of the College of Physicians (see page 11) and certain officers of the Company of Apothecaries (see page 14), whose duty it is to inspect the quality of Medicines, visit the warehouses and laboratories of the *wholesale* Chemists and Druggists of the metropolis, *which they have not done of late*, and they will find this assertion frightfully

* See Good's History of Medicine, 2d Edition, published in 1796.

verified. The Roman poet could have applied this verse in a medical sense with strict correctness,

> " Hoc fonte derivata clades
> " In patriam populumque fluxit."
>
> HORAT. *Carm. 6. Lib. III.*

It is acknowledged, that they go round the town, now and then, and examine the petty shops of little dealers, which contain but the litter of a day compared with the Augean stables above described. They seem to forget, that, *from contaminated sources, the stream must be impure.* The retail Chemists and Druggists of the metropolis and some provincial districts, and those practitioners of pharmacy, who are not members of the Apothecaries' Company, or who do not purchase from their stock, must be supplied by the manufacturing Chemists and wholesale Druggists. The ability of these dealers to prepare all Medicines with correctness is not questioned; but, so long as the supervising control of the Censors of the College of Physicians, and the proper officers of the Apothecaries' Company, shall remain a dead letter *as far as regards them,* the competition in trade, by endeavouring to undersell each other, will continue an inexhaustible source of domestic calamity and public mischief.

> —— Quid non mortalia pectora cogis
> Auri sacra fames?
>
> VIRGIL. *Æneid. Lib. III. v.* 58.

Magnesia, the volatile aromatic spirit called Sal

Volatile, lenitive electuary, and many other articles, will be found different from those made at Apothecaries' Hall; this is an assertion, which admits of easy proof, by purchasing a small quantity of such things at the shop of the Chemist and of the Apothecary, who is a member of the Company. It might be speciously alleged by the Chemist and Druggist, that, although there may be a difference in smell and taste, his commodities are equally good: but, it could be answered, that his *opinion* is not required, that it is his *duty* to produce the identical compound, which bears the name given to it by the Royal College of Physicians.

The stuff called *cake-saffron* is a farrago of any thing but saffron, with a thin layer of the genuine stigmas placed at top and bottom; the whole is then pressed into a cake, which has an imposing exterior, and passes under the name of the drug: but it is so manufactured for cheapness, and is sold by the wholesale to the retail Chemist and Druggist, for about one third the price that hay-saffron (the thing recommended by the College of Physicians) costs the Apothecary. Yet the *conscientious* purchaser of this stuff sells it, unblushingly, for saffron, and uses it in every medical composition of which saffron is directed to form a part. Cochineal, an expensive drug, has a cheap substitute, called *Silvester*, at one-fourth the price of the genuine article, with which it is generally mixed in the retail shops, in equal, or various proportions.

The Author is aware, that the presence or absence of these ingredients is not of extreme importance in the efficacy of the compound; but this is not the concern of the Chemist: *he*, unhappily, has an equal temptation to deceive in the manipulation of other and more important medicines; all being considered mere articles of commerce, *he* is too far removed from the operation of such moral causes as nearly interest the feelings of the Apothecary, or Medical Attendant (see page 41) to be much, if at all, influenced by them. Are not the Censors of the College of Physicians aware of these things?*

It is not presumed, nor is it wished to be insinuated that wholesale Druggists are more exhorbitant in their expectations of profit than other traders: their Medicines, indeed, are generally sold for less than the Apothecary pays for them at the Hall: perhaps, a fair average would be to estimate them at *one-fourth less*; but this difference

* The powder of carraway-seed, aniseed, and other seeds and roots employed for that noble and useful animal the horse, are notoriously fabricated from a certain quantity of the genuine articles, and a large proportion of any thing else, which is tasteless, coloured and mixed to make up the saleable commodity, usually passed from the wholesale to the retail Chemist and Druggist at a lower price than the respective seeds and roots! Such medicines, and many others, (like the Jew's razors, described by Peter Pindar) *are made to sell*. These assertions are easily proved: can it be doubted, then, but that men thus familiarised with adulteration and augmenting their profits by fraud, will always pause to inquire, whether the compound be for a quadruped, or a biped?

of price should never be suffered to interfere with the manner of their preperation.

How often is the able Physician disappointed in the expected influence of his remedies prescribed? How much of protracted suffering is daily and hourly caused by the inefficacy of defective Medicines? The Author is persuaded, that every respectable man engaged in the trade of wholesale Chemist and Druggist would be happy to find his customers willing to pay an increased price for many articles, upon condition of a proportionate improvement of their qualities: the principal inducement to sophisticate, or dilute them, would then cease to exist.

CHAPTER VII.

ON THE MEDICAL PROFESSION IN SCOTLAND, IRELAND, AND ON THE CONTINENT OF EUROPE.

THE opportunities of making Anatomical researches, of obtaining Medical and Surgical information, are, certainly, more limited in Edinburgh, than in London; but, the excellent and steady principles, which, in general, regulate the Scottish institutions, are eminently conspicuous in the medical profession, and have enabled its professors to take and to maintain high ground, as teachers in every department of medical science. In that country, there are Physicians, Surgeons, and Druggists. The Physicians, like gentlemen of the same class in England, prescribe for internal complaints only. The Surgeons, all of whom have also studied the practice of physic, *and passed an examination to prove their knowledge in it*, combine pharmacy with surgery, and are, literally, Surgeon-Apothecaries; the Medicine is prepared at home under their own inspection, and they are the general practitioners in the metropolis, and every other part of Scotland, referring to the Physician, and consulting with him, in cases of doubt, difficulty, or imminent danger. When it is remembered that John Bell, Benjamin Bell, Wood, Russell, John Thomson, and other men of a celebrity and

ability equal to any Hospital-Surgeons in Europe, are also in the daily practice of Pharmacy; the wisdom of that institution, which enables and encourages such men to be so extensively useful, is too obvious to require comment.*

The *mere* Apothecary is unknown in Edinburgh as a prescriber; and, as the Surgeon is a general practitioner, is a well-informed man, of easy access, and reasonable in his expectations of payment, the people have no interest in seeking the precarious assistance of irregular or unqualified persons: besides, the laws of Scotland are too jealous of the rights of individuals, to permit unjust innova-

* The Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh, have lately published the regulations to be observed by candidates, previously to their being examined for diplomas in Surgery.—See *The Edinburgh Medical and Surgical Journal*, for October 1813.—The course of study recommended, consists of "Lectures on ANATOMY, CHEMISTRY, INSTITUTIONS, or THEORY OF MEDICINE, PRACTICE OF MEDICINE, PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF SURGERY, CLINICAL SURGERY, MIDWIFERY, MATERIA MEDICA," and, at least, a year's attendance at a public hospital. This is the exact routine of sciences followed by the students in London, but *there is no Tribunal yet established* to examine them in the *Practice of Medicine* and *Midwifery*; and the Laws concerning *Pharmacy* (see the Act of James I. A.D. 1616) are not enforced. The lawless liberty, therefore, granted to every pretender and empiric in England, who may choose to call himself a Surgeon or Apothecary, has produced incalculable private injury and public mischief, which are now in full operation, *and will, assuredly, continue to be so*, until the avenues to honourable distinction are guarded by insisting upon an education and after-examination in *every department of medical practice*. Connivance at fraud is an indirect encouragement of it.

tion, and too vigilant to suffer the public to be deluded by the bold pretensions of empirics.

The Druggist keeps a Laboratory, or store, for the supply of the Surgeon.

In Ireland, the profession consists of Physicians, Surgeons, and Apothecaries. The Chemist and Druggist is a store-keeper only, and, by a law made in the year 1791, he is prohibited from compounding medicines. This is the *exclusive* privilege of the Apothecaries.

The University of Dublin confers degrees of Doctor in Medicine in a manner similar to that followed in Oxford and Cambridge. The Irish College of Physicians has Fellows and other officers, and dispenses authority of practice to Licentiates. It was formerly without a proper medical school, but the laudable anxiety of Sir Patrick Dunn for the honour of his country, and the improvement of its medical establishment, induced him to found three Professorships.

The Physicians confine themselves to their own department, and receive high fees, as in England: they are men of equal professional ability, and deservedly esteemed the superior practitioners.

The Surgeons *are restricted to surgery only*, and interdicted from the practice of Pharmacy, under the penalty of the forfeiture of their rights: this causes much distress to individuals, who cannot, in all places, find sufficient occupation to maintain themselves by the exercise of their skill, and it has given rise to the *occasional* interference of Apothe-

caries; for, at least, nine of every ten cases requiring professional aid in town and country, are strictly medical, and in many provincial situations, and in all thinly populated districts, a *mere* Surgeon cannot find sufficient employment: besides, the commonalty, in that, as in every other country, manifest a decided preference to the general practitioner; they wish to refer to one only on the account of their infirmities, or diseases; and, where the Student in Anatomy, and Member of the College of Surgeons, is prohibited, by the operation of any law, from adding Pharmacy to his practice, it will be found that the Apothecary is solicited, and, as in Ireland, *compelled*, on many occasions, to unite Surgery with his own particular department, or often suffer his patients to languish without help. The existence of such a law, then, has been, and in Ireland continues to be, productive of this result. The Surgeon, a man of science and general knowledge, is prevented from becoming more extensively useful, and, of course, discouraged.

The Apothecaries in Ireland are incorporated by an Act of Parliament, and in the year 1791, a new Act was made, to render the profession of Apothecary more generally respectable. Its provisions were judiciously extended to insist upon a regular apprenticeship, and an after-examination, before permission can be obtained to practise; that no Apothecary shall keep an assistant for purposes of business, *who has not served an apprenticeship, and received a certificate of qualification for his duties*

from a Court of Examiners: it also enacts, that a Hall shall be established by subscription of the Apothecaries, who are limited to sixty, at £100 each, to raise a fund for the supply of genuine drugs, and other medicines. A Master and Governors to be annually appointed, and other regulations for the management of affairs.*

The Apothecary is the prescriber and compounder of his medicines; for the Druggist is prohibited from dispensing, and is, like the Druggist in Scotland, a store-keeper for the Apothecary, who, besides the knowledge of Pharmacy, has gone through a course of studies in Anatomy, &c. to enable him to prescribe with advantage; and although not so called, he is, virtually, a Surgeon-Apothecary and general practitioner: the influence of that law, therefore, which prohibits Surgeons in Ireland, from practising Pharmacy, is peculiarly detrimental to *their* interests; and, it is presumed, *by limiting the services of a body of educated men,* that it must often become prejudicial to the public.

The medical profession on the Continent of Europe, is practised by Physicians, Surgeons, and Apothecaries: its progression has been much retarded, and it is far behind, in a comparison with

* On the 1st of February, 1804, a scale of charges for attendance was agreed to at Apothecaries' Hall, Dublin, which is the standard for the practice of the Apothecaries in Ireland. The price of every medicine and composition is stated: the amount to be charged by the Apothecary for his personal attendance, or that of his assistant, is distinctly mentioned.

its present state in this Country: for the general members are neither equal in attainments, nor public estimation to their contemporaries in England, Scotland, or Ireland. The Author does not wish to disparage the moral faculties of his professional brethren; but, in countries of less general prosperity, less individual opulence, and less equitable laws, men are not encouraged and rewarded as in England; their exertions are, consequently, more limited, and a proportionate retardation of science is the certain consequence.

In France, Holland, Germany, and Italy, the Physicians of a superior class, estimated by their talent, have never been numerous: they are, generally speaking, public Professors in Universities, or residents in a few cities or large towns on the Continent. The names of Boerhaave, Albinus, Van Swieten, Haller, Lieutand, Hoffman, De Haen, Stoll, Corvisart, Coray, Cabanis, and others, may be justly appreciated; and, for professional attainments and public estimation, placed on a par with the Fellows and Licentiates of the British Colleges.

The routine, or general Physician in these countries, is in no respect superior to the educated prescribing Apothecary of England, and, in many points, inferior to the Surgeon-Apothecary: his rate of charge for advice, as established by law, is so low as to permit all persons to avail themselves of his assistance, and he directs the Surgeon in the performance of his duty: he must be, therefore, *acquainted with* the principles of Surgery, the prac-

tice of which, particularly in provincial situations, is considered a very inferior occupation.

The general practitioner of Surgery in Holland, Germany, Italy, and the greater part of Europe, is still a Barber. It cannot be expected, nor will it ever happen, that, whilst men are employed in menial offices, and obliged to depend on the daily performance of them for a great part of their subsistence, the mind will possess sufficient energy to devote itself very successfully to objects of science: the routine Surgeon, therefore, is a mere mechanical appendage of the Physician in these countries, and the established ratio of payment is *half the fee of the Physician*, who is the general prescriber. It is admitted, that there have been, and now are, Surgeons of eminent learning and distinguished talent in these countries; but they are not numerous, and are either Professors in Universities and large towns, or Hospital-Surgeons. The names of Ruysch and Camper in Holland; of Dionis, Le Dran, Louis, Sabatier, Scarpa, Boyer, and Richerand, in France; of Brambilla and Plenck at Vienna; of Heister, Callissen, and others, in different parts of the Continent, demand the most respectful remembrance: such men are ranked with Hospital-Surgeons and Professors of Anatomy in the British empire.*

* The Author has had an opportunity, within the present month, of confirming his previous knowledge on this subject, by conversation with a young German Physician, lately from Frankfort on the Mayne, last from Edinburgh, who has been highly educated for a Professor of Medicine and Surgery, and has the diplomas both of

The Apothecary is a trader, who does not visit the patient, unless to administer an enema; in fact, he keeps what in England is called a Chemist's and Druggist's shop: these shops being licensed by their respective governments, are few, if not limited in number, bearing a proportion to the population of cities and towns. The abundance of drugs and herbs employed in the operose pharmacy of the Continent, which still retains much of the old Galenical system, renders it a trade requiring more capital and manual labour than are requisite in the business of the prescribing Apothecary, or Practitioner of Pharmacy in England.*

a Physician and a Surgeon: he affirms, that, in the large town of Frankfort, there are above forty Physicians, and a proportionate number of *routine* Surgeons, *not one of whom is trusted to perform amputation, or any of the great operations.* On these occasions, a Professor of Surgery comes from the College at Mayence, a distance of twenty miles, uses the knife, applies the first bandage, and returns home, leaving the management of the case to the routine Surgeon; and he observed, that this defect had induced his father, a Physician at Frankfort, to have him well instructed in Surgery, and fully qualified to supersede the necessity of sending to Mayence. It appears, then, that there is no law in that country to prevent an union of the practice of Medicine and Surgery in the same individual, if he shall have given proofs of possessing the requisite talents.

* See *Elements de Pharmacie, par M. Baumé,* which contains the French Pharmacopœia, &c.; a book in general use, like Dr. Duncan's *Edinburgh Dispensatory*, or a similar, but improved work, lately edited by Mr. A. T. Thomson, Surgeon, called *The London Dispensatory*, which is a compilation of great merit, and exhibits the Author as a scientific Chemist, Botanist, and a man of extensive general information.

CHAPTER VIII.

ON REMUNERATION.

A COMPARATIVE view of the relative situation, of the qualifications and employments of men in the various departments of the medical profession, involves the question of Remuneration, or the fair and equitable reward of services. The Author could not pass over this interesting point, without making a few remarks, explanatory of the real situation of the Apothecary, Surgeon-Apothecary, or general medical attendant; but, he will never cease to impress on the minds of his professional brethren, the Surgeon-Apothecaries, the necessity of moderation in their expectations of payment: *their* duties must be performed with alacrity at a reasonable charge, and upon the principles explained in the medical character (page 29) or they will not be deserving of encouragement, or public confidence: he is convinced, that, to be really useful to community, they must be of easy access, or the public will be compelled to resort to uneducated and unqualified persons for advice, from the same causes which first induced them to implore the aid of the Apothecary. (See Chapter III.)

The Author is fully aware of the difficulty of adapting the measure of professional reward to the individual ability of the patients; yet, it must be

admitted, that the general and duly qualified Practitioner has an unquestionable right to expect, that the industrious and full employment of his time and exercise of talent shall yield, in some way, a reward sufficient to enable him to maintain a family in comfort and respectability, suitable to the station assigned to him in society. In the Bill presented in the House of Commons last session, but withdrawn for revision and more ample consideration, this subject, and some clauses concerning Druggists, were included; but, in that which is about to be offered for discussion in Parliament, these points are passed over. The Committee, and the Profession at large, are more anxious to possess an honourable distinction in society by the respectable attainments of its members in every department of knowledge connected with Medicine and Surgery, and by the establishment of a proper tribunal, legally authorised to *compel* every future candidate to give proofs of having studied with success, than to incur the suspicion of being actuated by mercenary motives, and objects of mere trading emolument. They are persuaded that, when all the avenues to the honourable distinctions of professional life shall have been secured to the meritorious alone, the Surgeon-Apothecary will be more universally esteemed, his services duly appreciated and rewarded, and, in the interval, every educated member must continue to distinguish himself by the fair and punctilious discharge of his professional duties, and trust to the discern-

ment of his patients, to their liberality and feelings of common justice, to obtain an adequate reward over and above the amount of his bill for medicine, where personal attention has been conspicuously bestowed; for, in very many cases of indisposition, much medicine is not requisite: in the disorders of infants and children, it is utterly impossible to compound it in such a form as to afford payment, even to a common messenger in going to and from the dwelling of the patient as frequently as the advice of the Apothecary is *required*, his presence *expected*, and his superintendence *necessary* for the removal of the complaint.

It is admitted that the superior classes of society are aware of these things, and *sometimes* present the Apothecary with a *douceur* above the amount of his bill; but their liberality is often circumscribed, and the professional services of those, who make no demand, are liable to be passed over in silence, and the most meritorious part of their exertions and their *equitable claims* consigned to oblivion; besides, it is a lamentable fact, that the most numerous class of society, the Traders, many of whom are in affluent circumstances, and amongst whom the Surgeon-Apothecary, or general Practitioner, is chiefly employed, never think of paying for any thing which does not form *an item of charge in a bill;* and this circumstance obtrudes itself more particularly upon the notice of Apothecaries, because *their* business has not only sustained a deterioration by the increase of dispensing Che-

mists, but it has also suffered a diminution in emolument from a cause which ought to have produced a contrary effect; namely, the improvement of professional qualifications, and the acknowledged ability to be more extensively useful. Formerly, the Apothecary might rest satisfied without additional payment on those occasions where little medicine and much attention were required, because it frequently happened (particularly amongst the nobility and opulent gentry, who in all cases *used* to depend upon the advice and superintendence of their Physician alone) that he supplied the medicine, without being expected, or required, to give personal attendance, and this was to him an occasional source of profit, which, in general business, might be fairly balanced against his loss on account of extra-attendance, without medicine; but where is the Apothecary, employed by the nobility and gentry of the present time, whose medical advice and opinions are not appreciated, and whose time is not occupied in visiting them professionally? How many fees are now saved by them in consequence of his partial, or general attendance? He is expected to possess, and he has, usually, obtained, the education of a scholar, and medical talents of no mean order. It is obvious, therefore, that the increased merit of such Apothecaries has, by a perversion of reason, progressively operated to their disadvantage.

One motive of preference to the Chemist's shop may be, that the charge for medicine is sometimes

lower than at the regular Apothecary's; but, if so, there are reasons for this difference (see Chap. VI.) besides which, the preparer of Physicians' prescriptions in London, and the Drug-dealing Grocer in the country, are paid ready money for their commodities, and their time is no longer employed than in dispensing them at the counter; but, the Apothecary has annual accounts with his patients, and singularly fortunate, indeed, is he, who obtains a settlement of them all at the end of the year; *he* is liable to make bad debts, and that liability amounts to a certainty, of greater or less extent, to every practitioner: *his* time is occupied in visiting patients (often obliged to incur a considerable expenditure for horses and a carriage) and to do so with advantage *to them*, he must have gone through a long and expensive education; these facts, surely, deserve attentive and serious consideration. "The labourer is worthy of his hire," and, if the general usage has hitherto been to remunerate the Apothecary for time and talent, by permitting a charge over and above the market price of his drugs: it must be admitted, that such remuneration has been deservedly obtained, or, that some reward ought to be given for *professional* services. The prescribing Apothecary is an artist, and should be so considered; his talent is the result of diligent application to particular studies; his time is often his only estate, and what artist is paid only for the materials he consumes? Does the miniature-painter receive no

more than the intrinsic value of his ivory and colours, or is the Solicitor paid six shillings and eight-pence for a letter, as the price of ink and paper? Certainly not. The art of laying on the colours, and the knowledge requisite to dictate the letter, are the real objects of remuneration. Why then should not the educated Apothecary be entitled to an adequate reward for the occupation of his time, and exercise of his medical talents, *whenever they are demanded by his patients?**

A plan could be easily devised, by which the patient might be supplied by the Apothecary, at the very lowest charge of the medicine, when his

* It was a favourite theme of the early Dramatists, to represent the *Apothecary* as a creature of mere quaint garrulity and pragmatic folly. The facetious MOLIERE carried this raillery to the highest pitch, and, at the period when he wrote (from 130 to 150 years ago) there might have been something in France about these people, extremely ridiculous, which required the aid of satire to correct. The translators and arrangers of his plays and farces for the English stage, in copying that which was, perhaps, *character*, without a sufficient regard to the difference of time and place, have frequently made it, really, *caricature:* besides, the Wits of all ages and countries are often more studious to elicit mirth, than anxious to consult their better judgment in pourtraying truth. How can we, otherwise, account for the appearance of such personages as Lenitive and Dr. Ollapod, in two of our most popular pieces? The Author is convinced, that the Apothecary of the Metropolis and provincial districts, of the present day, is a man of professional ability and discretion; and he is persuaded, that, when he has availed himself of the opportunities of instruction, explained in the second Chapter, few persons will hesitate to declare, that he ought to be recognised as a *legal agent* for the cure of internal diseases.

professional or personal attention are not required. The subject admits of much dilation, foreign to the object of this Work, which is more particularly designed to take a candid and liberal view of the profession, *as a Science:* it had not, however, escaped the discriminating eye of that acute philosopher, Dr. Adam Smith, who says, "The profit "of Apothecaries has become a bye-word, denoting something uncommonly extravagant: this "great apparent profit, however, is frequently no "more than the reasonable wages of labour. "The skill of an Apothecary is a much nicer "and more delicate matter than that of any artificer whatever, and the trust, which is reposed "in him, is of much greater importance: his reward, therefore, ought to be suitable to his "skill and his trust, and it arises generally from "the prices at which he sells his drugs. Though "he should sell them, therefore, at three or four "hundred, or even at a thousand per cent. profit, "this may be no more than the reasonable wages "of his labour, charged in the only way in which "he can charge them, upon the price of his "drugs. The greater part of the apparent profit "is real wages, disguised in the garb of profit."

CHAPTER IX.

ON THE CONDUCT OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS.—OF THE COURT OF ASSISTANTS OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS, AND OF THE SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES, TOWARDS THE PRESENT ASSOCIATION OF APOTHECARIES, AND SURGEON-APOTHECARIES, OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

SUPREME power must be lodged somewhere, or no government, no society can exist in the secure enjoyment of their natural, or acquired rights. It is known that the members of every chartered body are zealous in maintaining their estimation, and it was expected that those, to whom the Legislature of the country had consigned the care of public health would not be less jealous of their privileges: but it was not foreseen, that a body of educated men would for these purposes, avail themselves of any means, except those, which would bear the test of the most rigid scrutiny, and which could be traced to proceed from motives of that enlarged philanthropy which should ever distinguish superior minds.

The Author would willingly forget all that is past relative to the conduct of the College of Physicians (see the Introduction) because he presumes that an erroneous opinion of the views and intention of the Associated Surgeon-Apothecaries might have been formed; but, the reiterated endeavours of the Committee to explain the motives of their pro-

ceedings, and the appeal to them for advice and assistance (not pecuniary) in the following letter, must enable the country to judge, whether opposition, or even non-concurrence, under such circumstances, be dignified and honourable, or invidious and disgraceful, to those, whom the bounty and wisdom of former Kings and Parliaments invested with *a discretionary power to improve the state of the medical profession, and to protect the public from the officious and dangerous interference of unqualified persons.*

" *To the Royal* College *of* Physicians *of* Lon-
" don, *the* Memorial *of the* Apothecaries *and*
" Surgeon - Apothecaries *of* England *and*
" Wales.

" The Committee appointed by a General Meet-
" ing of the Apothecaries and Surgeon-Apothe-
" caries of England and Wales, held at the Crown
" and Anchor Tavern, on Friday the 20th of
" November, 1812, for carrying into effect certain
" Resolutions then adopted, again appeal to the
" Royal College of Physicians, with all the re-
" spect to which it is justly entitled, as the recog-
" nized head of the Medical Profession.

" The Committee have seen, with deep concern,
" the Petition of the Royal College presented to
" the House of Commons against the Bill for regu-
" lating the Profession and Practice of the Apo-
" thecary and Surgeon-Apothecary in England
" and Wales, which was lately withdrawn from
" that honourable House for farther consideration.

" Although they are ignorant of the motives and " feelings of the Royal College, which suggested " that Petition, yet they conceive it never would " have been framed or presented, if the College " had condescended to inquire into the real mo- " tives which actuated the Memorialists in draw- " ing up their Bill, and the views which they con- " templated in obtaining for it the sanction of the " Legislature.

" They have to inform the Royal College, that " another Bill will be introduced into Parliament, " divested of what has been supposed to be objec- " tionable matter.

" The Committee, in soliciting the attention of " the Royal College to the claims of the Apothe- " caries and Surgeon-Apothecaries, disavow even " the shadow of a wish to interfere with, or en- " croach in any manner on the privileges, or im- " munities of the Royal College as a body, or " on the practice of its individual Members as " Physicians.

" Their great object is to improve the education, " and render more respectable their own Body; " and to advance the public good, by fencing their " branch of the Profession from the intrusion of " ignorant pretenders and empirics, to whom it is " now unfortunately open. They desire, most " sincerely, not only to have the support and coun- " tenance of the Royal College in their applica- " tion to Parliament, but its parental advice in " framing their Bill.

" The Committee consider it to be their duty to " state, that they are acting with the general con- " currence of Apothecaries and Surgeon-Apothe- " caries throughout England and Wales: but they " indulge the expectation that the Royal College " will take such means as may seem to it proper, " for ascertaining the real sentiments and views of " the Apothecaries and Surgeon-Apothecaries; " and, in answer to this Memorial, make known to " the Committee the measures which it intends to " adopt.

"They rest assured, that, when the intentions of " the Apothecaries are fully understood, the Col- " lege will no longer withhold its approbation from " the Bill; but, by its powerful co-operation, assist " in securing a great and important public benefit.

" Signed, by order of the Committee,

" W. T. WARD,

" SECRETARY.

" *Committee Room,*
" *Crown and Anchor,*
" *June* 14, 1813."

To this respectful solicitation the following answer has been received:

" *Royal College of Physicians,*
" *June 26th,* 1813.

" SIR,

" I HAVE to inform you that the President " communicated to the College, assembled this day,

" the Memorial of the Apothecaries and Surgeon-
" Apothecaries of England and Wales; and the
" College are of opinion, that they cannot give any
" advice or assistance to them on this occasion.

" By order of the College,

" JAMES HERVEY,

" REGISTRAR.

" W. WARD, Esq. Secretary
" to the Committee of Apo-
" thecaries and Surgeon-
" Apothecaries, &c."

Far be it from the Author's intention, or wish, to derogate from the respectability of the Physician, or to deny his claim to superior distinction and greater reward than the educated *prescribing* Apothecary; he disclaims such motives, and has the greatest respect for the College-establishment, many of whose members he knows to be men of extensive learning, and of the highest professional ability: yet, as it is well understood, that neither classical nor medical learning are the exclusive attributes of Members of the Royal College of Physicians, but that these qualifications are largely possessed by Gentlemen, who exercise a subordinate department, he would recommend them to consult their own feelings on the subject of discussion, *individually*, as men of honour and integrity, this would induce them, *collectively*, to meet the question in that spirit of amity which ought to unite the whole Profession by a bond of friendship;

to recollect, that it has always been *unequivocally* stated by the Committee, and that it is still their desire, not to trespass upon nor to interfere with *their* privileges, and to remember the injunction, "*Ne fac alteri, quod non vis tibi fieri.*" They should foresee, that a contrary and hostile line of conduct, by attempting to enforce laws, which, however equitable two or three centuries ago, might be *now* found either *partial*, or, *defective*, and no longer adequate to fulfil their original intentions, may involve them in a serious national dispute; and, that the same Regal and Parliamentary authority, which enacted those laws, could modify, or abrogate them, whenever their operation may cease to be beneficial to the public.

At the commencement of the present Association of Surgeon-Apothecaries for the attainment of objects mentioned in the Introduction, the Committee addressed a respectful letter to the Court of Assistants, or ruling members of the Royal College of Surgeons, of a purport similar to that sent to the Royal College of Physicians, but they were not fortunate enough to receive a satisfactory answer: it was a formal reply, concluding with these words; that, "*The Court of Assistants does not intend* "*to interfere with the subject of such Letter.*" The Committee might lament this decision, because three-fourths, at least, of the whole number of the Members of the College, in actual practice, both in London and provincial districts, had associated themselves for the purposes specified. The Chair-

man and majority of the Committee were Surgeons; but, what must have been their astonishment at finding, that, on the eve of presenting their Bill for the *consideration* of Parliament, the Court of Assistants became actively hostile to its promotion. They called a meeting, not of all the Members of the College, to judge of the expediency of the proposed improvements, and to collect the general sense of their body; but of the Court of Assistants *only*, and decided upon opposing the Bill with all their might; and those Members of the Court, who were not present, received a letter from the Secretary of the College, by order of that meeting, *requesting them to use their personal influence with Members of Parliament for such purpose*, without stating any reasons, for which the opposition was necessary or just: and one of the Court, whose respectability as a Surgeon, and estimation as a Philosopher, should have enlarged his mind, and rendered it superior to the practice of little arts, unworthy of his high reputation and incompatible with true greatness, made himself conspicuously eminent in the *honourable* task of insidiously opposing his professional brethren in the promotion of a measure, which the *majority of them* considered absolutely necessary for their prosperity as general Practitioners; a plan which would have been open to fair and manly discussion in Parliament, and subject to modifications in a Committee of that House.

It has been supposed and intimated by some

Apothecaries, that the Physicians and Hospital-Surgeons wish entirely to supersede the necessity of their occupation, by sending their prescriptions to the Chemist's shop, and reserving to themselves the *total* management, instead of the superintendence, of their patients; and, it is true, that a few of them are more than suspected of endeavouring to multiply the frequency of their expensive visits, to make a trade of their profession, and, under cover of a false plea of the medicines being better, or more accurately compounded, or prepared in a peculiar manner, at some particular shop, that they do, occasionally, succeed in keeping away the Apothecary: but, these are, generally, men whose talents are so little, if at all, superior to those of the educated Surgeon-Apothecary, that the real motives of such conduct may be found to be more *personally* interested, and, by substituting craft for wisdom, often, to arise from a fear that the patient may, perchance, exercise his own judgment, and make a comparison, not to their advantage. The Author can safely assert, that he has never known Physicians and Surgeons of the first-rate talent resort to this practice, (although some have done so, who are in considerable estimation:) These gentlemen retain the confidence of their patients, by a more secure and honourable tenure; their eminent and conspicuous ability: they are deservedly paid at a high rate, and are, moreover, usually the most ready to lessen the weight of *requisite* attendance, by a liberal consideration of the

situation of their patients, when not in affluent circumstances.

To remove the evils, and to obviate the influence, of the sinister practices alluded to, the Author takes this opportunity of recommending to his professional brethren a most efficacious and certain remedy, which will, assuredly, contribute both to their honour and their profit: it may give some of them a little more trouble, perhaps; but, if they shrink from the task, they are not worthy of the reward, and their complaints will be unpitied. He does not advise them to oppose craft by fraud, in making the most, in *their* turn, of those patients, who have strayed, when they shall revert to their care, which they always do, at one time or another; but, to counteract *Cunning* by *Wisdom*, which, under judicious management, is always an over-match for it; by acquiring as much scientific and professional information as possible, by treating their doubting patients with honourable candour, and, on every occasion, by endeavouring to moderate the expenses of indisposition, and acting, uniformly, upon the principles of the true medical character. This conduct is soon distinguished, and generally meets with its reward: besides, those who had run to the Chemist's shop, to save a few shillings, would, *from similar motives*, have as great a regard for their Guineas, and could not fail in resorting to the Surgeon-Apothecary. The Competition, upon these conditions, would not improve the practice of such Physicians and Hospital-Surgeons as have

begun, or may hereafter presume, to act upon a system of fraudulent illiberality. The most numerous classes of people must, ever, be under the care of the general Practitioner, for reasons mentioned in Chapters II. and III. and, very many of those who can afford to pay more, and, who do usually remunerate with variable liberality, will not disdain to regulate their health by the advice of studious and experienced men, obtainable at an easy rate, when they entertain a favourable opinion of their ability, notwithstanding the operation of *partial* or *obsolete* laws may have prevented, and may continue to prevent, those, who have received their medical education in the best school for practical instruction, LONDON, from being dignified by the highest titular honours.

To convince the Court of Assistants of the continued anxiety of the Associated Surgeon Apothecaries to avoid giving any reasonable cause of offence, the following letter was addressed to them on the 7th of July, to which no Answer has yet been received, after an elapse of three months:—

Copy of an ADDRESS *to the* MASTER, GOVERNORS, *and* COURT *of* ASSISTANTS *of the* ROYAL COLLEGE *of* SURGEONS *of* LONDON.

"GENTLEMEN,

"THE Committee appointed by a General Meeting of the Apothecaries and Surgeon-Apothecaries of England and Wales, held at the Crown and Anchor Tavern, on Friday the 20th of No-

" vember, 1812, for carrying into effect certain " Resolutions then adopted, again appeal to the " Court of Assistants of the Royal College of " Surgeons, on the subject which they had the " honour to address to the Court on the 11th of " December, 1812.

" The Committee have seen with great concern " the Petition of the Court presented to the House " of Commons against the Bill for regulating the " Profession and Practice of the Apothecary and " Surgeon-Apothecary, in England and Wales, " which Bill was lately withdrawn from that " Honourable House, for farther consideration.

" Although the Committee are ignorant of the " motives and feelings of the Court which sug- " gested this opposition, yet they conceive it never " would have been exerted, if the Court had pre- " viously inquired into the real intentions which " actuated them in drawing up their Bill, and had " requested an explanation of such parts as ap- " peared doubtful or objectionable, and the views " which were contemplated in obtaining for it the " sanction of the Legislature.

" They have to inform the Court that another " Bill will be introduced into Parliament, divested " of what has been supposed objectionable matter.

" In soliciting the attention of the Court to the " claims of the Apothecaries and Surgeon-Apo- " thecaries, the Committee disavow even the sha- " dow of a wish to interfere with, or incroach in " any manner on, the privileges or immunities of

" the Royal College of Surgeons, as a body, or on
" the practice of its individual Members, as Sur-
" geons.

" Their great object is to improve the educa-
" tion, and render more respectable their own
" Body, and to advance the public good, by
" fencing their branch of the Profession from the
" intrusion of ignorant pretenders and empirics,
" to whom it is now, unfortunately, open.

" They desire most sincerely to have the aid and
" countenance of the Court in their future applica-
" tion to Parliament.

" The Committee will be happy to afford any
" information which the Court may require, to
" enable them to ascertain the sentiments and views
" of the Apothecaries and Surgeon-Apothecaries
" of England and Wales, with the declared appro-
" bation of whom they consider it their duty to
" state they are almost universally supported.

" Signed, by order of the Committee,

" W. WARD,

" SECRETARY.

" *Committee Room,*
" *Crown and Anchor Tavern,*
" *July* 7, 1813."

The Author, a member of this College, who received a testimony of its approbation ten years ago, on account of his translation of an octavo volume on Physiology, avails himself of this oppor-

tunity to express his sincere regret, that its present governing members should have been so averse from communication with the Committee of Surgeon-Apothecaries, and so precipitate, so *caustic* in their opposition: he has the highest respect for the College and its laws: but, as these invest Gentlemen of the Court of Asisstants with an almost unlimited rule, and a power of self-nomination to *all the Offices of Direction*, it behoves them to act with extreme caution, to make a temperate and judicious use of that power for the expressed or implied purposes of its enactment—*The general improvement of their department of the profession, and the benefit of the public.* It would be a painful task for him to be obliged again to animadvert with more severity upon the conduct of the governing members of a body, to which he has the honour to belong; and he trusts, that, on all future occasions, there will exist an unanimity of sentiment, within and without the precincts of the Royal College of Surgeons, leading to a zealous co-operation for the attainment of every object, which may have a direct tendency to confirm the reputation, and augment the respectability of all its members, by a more rigid exclusion of those, who are unqualified for their assumed task. Such motives and actions would be worthy of the Court of Assistants, as men of candour and liberality; by consulting their better feelings, and acting with liberality, they would confer dignity on the Pro-

fession, and render it more extensively useful to the community.

Can it be doubted, that there exists a necessity of enforcing a preliminary education, and a strict examination, of every future practitioner in town and country? At present, no Surgeon is examined as to his knowledge of the principles and practice of Midwifery, and every pretender is permitted to assume the name, and attempt to exercise the other duties of a Surgeon, with impunity. Surely this apathy for the sufferings of the public, and the neglect in not protecting their own members from the effects of these assumptions, demand the most unqualified censure.

The Master, Wardens, and Court of Assistants, of the Society of Apothecaries in London, were respectfully addressed, at the commencement of the Association of Surgeon-Apothecaries for the purposes specified, in a letter from the Committee, and they declared, after consulting with the Royal College of Physicians, that they could not, *as a body*, concur with the Committee in the intended application to Parliament. This was to be regretted, when *three-fourths* of that body were actually amongst the Petitioners: but as they did not become actively hostile to the measure, and seem to have followed the dictates of the governing Members of the Royal College of Physicians, at whose recommendation their charter was first granted (see Chapter II.) their answer may be suffered to pass without severe comments: yet, it is

to be lamented that the ruling members of any chartered body, instituted for public good, should not be awake to their duties and to the protection of the rights of its members from lawless and unreasonable innovation. The affairs of this Society, or Company, have long been more commercial than professional. They sell genuine drugs and medicinal preparations to their Members and other Practitioners, who prefer paying a higher price for their remedies, on which they may rely in the cure of diseases, than obtaining them from more questionable sources, at a cheaper rate.

The Committee of Surgeon-Apothecaries, to prove their earnest endeavours to conciliate, and if possible, to rouse them to a true sense of their situation, have since addressed the following letter, to which they have not *yet* received any reply.

"*To the* MASTER, WARDENS, *and* COURT *of* ASSISTANTS *of the* SOCIETY *of* APOTHECARIES.

" THE Committee, elected by the Apothecaries
" and Surgeon-Apothecaries of England and Wales,
" have the honour to communicate to the Court of
" Assistants, that the Bill ' for regulating the
" Practice, &c. &c.' was presented, and read to
" the Honourable the House of Commons, on the
" 8th of March, which being opposed by Petitions
" from the Royal College of Physicians and Sur-
" geons, and meeting with other obstacles, was by
" the Committee withdrawn for amendment, that

" it might be again introduced the next Session " of Parliament, in a form less exceptionable.

" The Committee have recently renewed their " applications to both the Royal Colleges, for their " concurrence and aid in the arrangement of an- " other Bill. Copies of those applications, and the " answer of the College of Physicians (the only " one yet received) are enclosed, for the informa- " tion of the Court.

" With the approbation and support of the " greater part of the Practitioners in Pharmacy " throughout England and Wales, and of the Mem- " bers of your Society, the Committee respect- " fully, but confidently, recommend to the most " serious attention of the Court, the present de- " teriorated state of the business of the Apothecary, " both in the Metropolis and in the country. They " are satisfied, that your Court must be sensible of " the absolute necessity which exists for the inter- " ference of Parliament, to protect the public " health, and their branch of the Medical Profes- " sion from the farther intrusion of uneducated " and ignorant pretenders: a principal and in- " creasing source of much mischief.

" In execution of the duty confided to their " charge, the Committee are desirous of arranging " a Bill, to meet, as fully as possible, the alleged " evils; and to guard, in future, the regular Prac- " titioner in the free and liberal exercise of his " various and important functions. To insure

" so desirable an object, they again most earnest-
" ly solicit the co-operation of the Court of Assist-
" ants, feeling assured, that, by their joint en-
" deavours, such a plan might be formed, as would
" prove highly beneficial to the public, and ac-
" ceptable to the different branches of the Medi-
" cal Profession.

" Signed, by order of the Committee,

" W. WARD,

" SECRETARY.

" *Committee Room,*
" *Crown and Anchor,*
" *August* 5, 1812."

CHAPTER X.

RESOLUTIONS PROPOSED BY THE LONDON COMMITTEE OF SURGEON-APOTHECARIES, AS THE BASIS OF A NEW BILL.—RECAPITULATION AND CONCLUSION.

IF it be admitted, that all persons should be instructed in the principles of the avocation they follow, it must be conceded, it cannot be denied, that those, to whom the public confide their most valued possession, life, ought to have, previously, given proofs of ability to perform their assumed duties. The Committee of Surgeon-Apothecaries, therefore, although unsupported by the protection, advice, or assistance of those chartered bodies, whose concurrence might have been, not unreasonably, expected, were too strongly impressed with the justice of their cause, and the moderation of their wishes, to permit any obstacle of that kind to prevent them from pressing the question upon the consideration of Parliament, with a determination, which no opposition, founded on a system of illiberality, will ever induce them to reverse, and with a vigour which no motives of timidity will dispose them to relax. The following Resolutions are proposed as the bases of the new Bill, and submitted to the District Committees in every part of England and Wales.

The Resolutions proposed by the London Committee as the Bases of a New Bill.

" 1st. That it shall not, in future, be lawful for " any person, except those already in practice, to " act as an Apothecary, Surgeon-Apothecary, or as " a Practitioner in Midwifery, in any part of Eng- " land or Wales, unless such person shall have " been first examined, and received a certificate of " his being duly qualified for such practice. Pro- " vided always, that no person shall be entitled " to such examination until he has attained the age " of twenty-one years.

" 2d. That no person, excepting such as are " actually indented, or have commenced a Course " of Medical Studies, at the time of passing this " Act, be admitted to an examination for a certificate " to practise as an Apothecary, or Surgeon-Apothe- " cary, unless he has served an apprenticeship of " not less than five years to an Apothecary, or Sur- " geon-Apothecary, and shall produce other testi- " monials of a sufficient Medical Education.

" 3d. That no person be permitted to practise " as an Apothecary, either alone or conjointly as a " Surgeon-Apothecary, unless he has been exa- " mined as to his knowledge of Medicine and " Pharmacy, by a Board of Medical Practitioners, " properly qualified, and legally authorized for that " purpose, and likewise for the purposes of Exa- " minations in Midwifery.

" 4th. That no person acting, or having acted " as full Surgeon or Apothecary in the Army or " Navy, shall be liable to an examination, except " as to his qualification in Midwifery.

" 5th. That no person, in future, shall be allowed " to practise Surgery alone, or conjointly with Phar- " macy and Midwifery, until he shall have obtained " a Diploma from the Royal College of Surgeons.

" 6th. That no person, in future, act as an Assist- " ant to an Apothecary, or Surgeon-Apothecary, " to compound and dispense Medicine, without " passing an Examination in Pharmacy, unless he " shall have served an Apprenticeship of five years " to an Apothecary, or Surgeon-Apothecary.

" 7th. That no Female, in future, be allowed to " practise Midwifery, without passing an Exami- " nation.

" 8th. That every Apprentice's Indenture shall " bear a stamp of twenty-five pounds.

" 9th. That nothing herein contained be consi- " dered as preventing Members of the Royal Col- " lege of Physicians, or of the Royal College of " Surgeons, or of the Society of Apothecaries, of " London, enjoying the same privileges and immu- " nities in their several branches of the Profession, " to which they are present entitled.

(Signed) " GEORGE MAN. BURROWS,
" CHAIRMAN.

" *Bloomsbury-Square,*
" *Sept.* 4, 1813."

The beneficial tendency of these Resolutions, if carried into effect, is too obvious to require comment, when it is remembered, that no tribunal at present exists, to examine practitioners in Midwifery, and that no person practising as an Apothecary, in town or country, is ever questioned *publicly* or *privately*, as to his knowledge of diseases and their remedies: The Physicians having, hitherto, *affected* to disdain recognising them as prescribers, and the Surgeons confining their examination of candidates for diplomas to *mere* Surgery and Anatomy.

It has been seen in the preceding chapters, that medical knowledge was cultivated according to the then existing principles of science, by the early philosophers of Greece, that it assumed an increased importance, and became a distinct profession at the time of Hippocrates, that it continued to be highly valued during the remaining period of Grecian prosperity, and, with other sciences, was afterwards transferred to Rome, that it continued to be studied, and its professors honoured, during the prevalence of Roman greatness, and was only discontinued in common with all the fine arts, during the barbarous anarchy of Europe in the middle or Gothic ages, that it was restored with the revival of literature, and has kept pace with other improvements.

The time of the first enactment of laws for the regulation of the medical profession in England, having been noticed, a compendious account of all

the charters, which the Author has perused with attention, is then given, to shew the periods of successive extension of privilege and power granted to the medical bodies, and to elucidate the expressed and implied objects of those grants. A comprehensive view has been taken of the progression of the Nation to its present state of commercial prosperity and general opulence, with the influence of these causes upon the physical powers of its inhabitants, and the effects of them, as far as they regard the medical profession. In this view of the subject, the Author is not conscious that he has been anticipated by any writer; he has endeavoured to establish that which he truly believes to be an indisputable truth, *that the extension of medical aid was, from such causes, rendered absolutely necessary for the welfare of the people;* and, he has pointed out the transition of the Apothecary, from a mere compounder, to a presciber of medicine, in cases of minor importance, and to persons who could not afford to fee a Physician. He has noticed the opportunities which the Apothecary has progressively possessed of becoming fully qualified, in LONDON, to practise, and expressed himself with a warmth of feeling, which may be, perhaps, excusable in one, who is jealous of the honour of his native city; but he has never suffered this, nor any other motive, to diminish his strict regard for correctness.

The general utility of the prescribing Apothecary, and Surgeon-Apothecary, has been explained,

upon principles, which, it is presumed, cannot be controverted, and the justice of their appeal to the wisdom of Parliament, elucidated by arguments, which will not be easily refuted, namely, that the educated professional man should be clearly distinguished from the illiterate pretender, encouraged and protected in the honourable exercise of his useful duties; and, that the public should be able, *on all occasions*, to obtain judicious assistance at a moderate expense, with the opportunity of referring to the Physician and Hospital-Surgeon, in cases of doubt, unusual difficulty, or danger: or, at all times, and on every, the most trivial, occasion, if individuals should be in such circumstances as enable them to pay the usual fees; provided it be their pleasure to do so.

The condition of Medical Practitioners in the country, their just cause of complaint on account of the considerable abstraction of their employment by irregular, or unqualified persons (see Chap. V.); the defective medical mangement of of the poor, by the scandalous apathy of their legal guardians, the Overseers; have been elucidated from an extensive correspondence, explanatory of the shameful neglect of many Parish-Doctors.

The laws concerning Drug-dealing Grocers, the multiplication of them in form of Retail Chemists' and Druggists' shops, and some of the abuses of the trade, have been noticed with severe, but just, reprehension, The negligence of those Corporate Bodies, which are invested with a power to search

for bad drugs and "potticary wares" have been animadverted upon with less severity than might have been used, and the real, and, *by them*, unexplored sources of the mischief pointed out. The merited preference of the regular Apothecary has been emphatically expressed and referred to principles, which every individual of liberal mind will know how to appreciate.

The actual state of the medical profession in Scotland, Ireland, and the continent of Europe, has been passed under review, to ascertain their comparative merits: the institutions of Scotland are praised from no other motive than a persuasion, or conviction, of their superior usefulness.

The Author, having added a Chapter on Remuneration, and dilated on this subject with a candour and freedom, which, he trusts, are as just as they will be impressive, has left it with an apposite quotation from a late argumentative and discriminating writer of acknowledged respectability.

In describing and commenting on the conduct of the Royal College of Physicians, and *The Court of Assistants* in the Royal College of Surgeons, the Author has had a most painful task: but, having proposed to give a correct view of the Profession in all its departments, to elucidate the merits of the Bill about to be presented for the consideration of Parliament, it became an imperative duty to endeavour to express himself with clearness, precision, and effect.

It is obvious, indeed, that a better regulation of

the profession of Apothecary and Surgeon-Apothecary is become indispensably necessary to rescue them from an increasing degradation; and that, if this be not *speedily* adopted, they will sink into disreputable occupations, and their regular members be merged in the general contempt. The means of obtaining the end may possibly admit of a shade of difference in opinion; but will the *governing members* of the Royal College of Physicians, or *The Court of Assistants* in the College of Surgeons, presume to say, that the abuses pointed out, and the defects mentioned, ought any longer to be tolerated? They are, with few exceptions, men of private fortune, abundant practice amongst the opulent, resident in London, and too far removed from the operation of the just causes of complaint to be *personally* affected by them, or, it should seem, *morally* influenced by the privations of their less fortunate brethren. Will they have the temerity openly to oppose men of respectability and character, to whom they have refused advice and assistance in the prosecution of a laudable object? Or, will they endeavour to fritter away the efficacy of the proposed measure, by attempting to obtain the management of it, when the public feeling of its justice and necessity has become too strong to be resisted? Let not these queries be considered irrelevant, nor the allusions too pointed, when it is known, that they have long been indifferent to the effects of abuses and frauds, as numerous and flagrant as those exemplified in Lincolnshire, which

are daily practised within the precincts of their Charter, in London and its environs, with impunity.

If the governing members of societies instituted for purposes of general good, and successively invested with powers and privileges, which the respective Monarchs and Parliament confided to them, to be exercised with an honourable discretion, presuming that none but liberal sentiments could actuate them by one common mind, are negligent of their duties; or, if they meet in council to form partial or sinister resolutions, and act upon them, *as a body*, regardless of the most respectful appeals, they must expect to receive the censure due to such conduct, *as a body*, and to sustain a depreciation in public opinion, proportioned to the expressed or implied tendency of their acts.

The Author cannot take leave of the subject without again expressing his sincere wish, that the ruling members of the already chartered medical bodies may review the affair with a feeling of friendly consideration, that they will, *at last*, appreciate the unequivocal frankness of the Committee of Surgeon-Apothecaries in London, meet them in a spirit of amity, and contribute their powerful aid to carry into effect the intentions of the Bill.—*To improve the general respectability of the medical profession, and to defend the public from its numerous abuses.* Resolutions and acts of this kind would reflect honour upon themselves, and could not fail in securing to the community protection and advantage.

In a state of mind the most distant from enmity, and averse from wishing to give just cause of offence to any individual, or corporate body, with a sincere desire to avoid even the suspicion of holding out a defiance; but, with the boldness of a man resting upon the truth of his assertions, the purity of his motives, and convinced of the justice of the cause he attempts to defend, the Author fears no hostility, personal, or professional, on account of any part of the contents of his little volume.

The impartial critic, whether anonymous or declared, who writes as he feels, and feels as he writes, is a most estimable character; he will appreciate motives, and judge of actions, with real candour; and, in expressing his opinions, however dissonant, will ever be entitled to respectful attention; but, the concealed reviewer, who is unmindful of his compact with the public, the mercenary scribbler, who may be hired to misrepresent the most obvious facts, will be treated with merited contempt: to these gentry the character of Sir Hudibras may be justly applied:

> "On either side he would dispute,
> "Confute, change hands, and still confute."*
>
> CANTO I.

* A bookseller of the highest respectability, told the Author, that he was once requested to publish a violent political pamphlet, which he declined. The pamphleteer was particularly anxious on the subject, and said, "I know, Sir, that it will sell, for I intend to

Misrepresentation and sophistry, when employed to protect injustice, or to conceal illiberality, will be refuted and condemned; whilst a disposition to view the subject upon principles of equity and enlarged philanthropy, whether expressed by the voice of individuals, or the acts of chartered bodies, will always be appreciated and respected.

The Author wishes to be clearly understood by every class of men, whose occupations are alluded to in this Inquiry. He is the friend of the Physician, where ability and integrity are conspicuous, and would have more pleasure in defending the rights and privileges of their College, if exercised only for the expressed intentions of its establishment, than in making such animadversions upon it, as the present occasion seemed to demand.

He is the friend of the Hospital, or consulting Surgeon, where superiority of talent is on a par with superior estimation; and he still clings to the hope, that the time is not far distant, when *The Court of Assistants* will act with candour and liberality towards those members, who address them with respectful deference, and that they will begin to correct the numerous and palpable abuses, which can only exist by their unwarrantable acquiescence; from that moment will they find in him a steady supporter of their authority, a task, which would afford him more satisfaction than to censure their acts as *a public body*, particularly,

" write against it!" The bookseller, being a man of integrity, as well as a reputable trader, dismissed the *patriotic* politician with a very short answer.

when some of its members are objects of his personal esteem and private friendship.

He is the friend of the *regular* Apothecary, who has an honourable solicitude for the welfare of his patients, by a careful selection of medicines, and a laudable accuracy in their composition; and who conducts his practice upon those principles, which should ever be conspicuous in the professors of a learned and liberal art.

He is no enemy to the trading Chemists and Druggists, when they are properly qualified for their assumed duties of compounding, and shall cease to adulterate their medicines: but, until some improvement has been effected in this particular, they must not expect to escape remark, where they deserve the most severe reprehension.

He is friendly to the Bill about to be presented to Parliament, because he is convinced of the honourable intentions of its promoters, and the utility which would result from a correct discrimination of the qualified from the unqualified practitioners of a profession, which has always been considered the most useful or destructive in civilized society; and his only wish is, to see it regulated upon such principles as will ensure respect to its meritorious members, and protection to the public. To obtain this end, he is anxious that its provisions should have a deliberate discussion in Parliament, and, in offering to every Member the means of becoming acquainted with the subject, he is so far from imitating the example of those,

who have clandestinely endeavoured to *forestal* their vote by partial representation, illiberal inuendo, or perversion of the truth, that he is desirous of trusting the question to its own merits, without requiring the support even of his personal friends in either House, unless they shall be convinced of the expediency or necessity of the measure; but, he will bow to their decision, and, in the sentiment of the Mantuan Poet, console himself with the satisfaction of having endeavoured well:—

——"Mens sibi conscia recti,
"Premia digna ferat."

POSTSCRIPT.

AFTER Chapter IX. was written, and in the hands of the Printer, the Author was informed that the following communication, from the Royal College of Surgeons, had reached the Secretary of the Associated Surgeon-Apothecaries. It is now before him.

"Royal College of Surgeons, 11th Oct. 1813.

"SIR,

"I HAVE to acquaint you, that your letter of the "7th of July last, addressed to the Master, Go-"vernors, and Court of Assistants of the Royal

"College of Surgeons of London; and since, an "enclosure of some printed papers, have been re- "ceived.

"I am Sir,

"Your most obedient,

"humble servant,

"EDM. BALFOUR, SEC.

"Mr. W. T. Ward, &c."

Such, then, is the notice of the Royal College of Surgeons, concerning the subject of the before-mentioned respectful address, after an elapse of three months! This notification, for it is no reply, was, of course, dictated by the Court of Assistants, as this rare piece of literature is in the hand-writing of another person, and signed only by the Secretary. Would it be possible for men of sense, or of common discretion, if they should even forget the usual courtesy of gentlemen in the custom of replying to the *contents* of a letter, or address, to be so blinded by the possession of "a little brief autho- "rity," as not to foresee the train of events which must follow a persistence in such conduct, towards a majority of the members of the College? They may, perhaps, disavow all interference with the medical affairs of *Apothecaries*; but, are they prepared to say, that the practice of Midwifery, which has long been extensively exercised by Surgeons in town and country, has no reference to the duty of the Court of Assistants, as the superintending body? Will they have the temerity to assert, that

it is not of importance to the community, for this department of the *profession of chirurgery*, commonly called *Surgery*, this *manual operation*, to be understood and conducted upon principles of science? Are they not aware, that hundreds of individuals would be annually lost, but for judicious aid in difficult parturition? If they should not venture to maintain these positions, why do they not examine candidates, who intend to make themselves useful in this practice, or recal those, who have entered into it, to ascertain their relative qualifications? This question can be promptly answered, and the assertion as easily proved, *Because the Court of Examiners are totally unacquainted with this department of professional knowledge, and have never been engaged in the practice of it.* Is it not time, therefore, that some arrangement should be made to protect the public from the direful effects of ignorance and presumption, in a cause so nearly allied to the best feelings of humanity? (See Chapter V.)

For what purposes do Surgeons give thirty guineas to the College for a London Diploma, and half that sum for liberty to practise their profession in the country; and, afterwards, continue to pay twenty shillings annually, unless it be to obtain distinction, and to secure protection; to possess the power of having their complaints listened to, the causes of them investigated, and their grievances, if any, redressed? Is it consistent with common decency, that this aggregate of money and annual tax should be employed merely to build a

magnificent temple without an oracle? Is it consonant with the beneficent views of the Royal Founder of the College of Surgeons, that *a few* of its members should be invested with an exclusive power of management, and the nomination of their successors, when they can be proved to be unable to do all their duty, by not having attended to an important department of practice—Midwifery?—when they are unwilling to defend the rightful interests of its general members, and protect the public from the baleful influence of impostors, and who, when respectfully appealed to, add insult to injury?

With respect to the letter *signed* by the Secretary, the Author was, at first sight, almost tempted to believe, that some new French diplomatic *detour* was intended: an humble imitation of the Secretaryship of Mons. Maret, in the pretended repeal of the Berlin and Milan Decrees: and that, when the affair shall have come to an exposition, which illiberality and injustice will certainly produce, and men will be made accountable for their acts, the blame may be shifted to the juvenile copyist: for the precious document is in a youth's hand-writing. Yet the Author wishes to persuade himself that, not only the Secretary of the Royal College of Surgeons was too busily employed in matters of more consequence than to be able to write so *long* a letter himself; but, that he had not even time to read it over, and, merely added his signature; and, farther, that the Copyist, or Sub-Secretary, had so closely imitated the rapidity of his superior, as to have, *unintentionally*, omitted the most material part of the com-

munication; namely, *the answer to the contents of the address and printed papers;* and that, hereafter, there may be found on the books of the College at that date (October 11, 1813) a regular, official, and dignified reply to the respectful Address of the Committee of Surgeon-Apothecaries of England and Wales.

The College of Physicians have, unhappily, refused to give their advice, or assistance in an affair of public and professional importance: but, they have treated the appeal with the civility of Gentlemen. The Court of Assistants of the College of Surgeons, by an insulting apathy towards the public, and the members of their College, who are represented by the Committee, have *unnecessarily* committed themselves in a state of hostility, which every considerate man must view with regret.

Oh! that all men would learn to make a distinction between cunning and wisdom; and, if they happen to be placed in a situation of *nominal* superiority, and invested with power *to maintain and improve the respectability of the body over which they preside, and to confer benefit on the public,* that they would be ashamed to practise the little arts of little minds; but, that they would prove themselves worthy of those dignities, by a display of talent and feeling, which would command respectful admiration, and be alike creditable to the head and the heart!

THE END.

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(Note relative to page 18.)

Although it must be evident, that it is neither the intention, nor the wish of the Author to depreciate the public estimation of The Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians, (see page 67, and elsewhere) but, merely to assert the just claims of the Apothecary, when educated according to the usage of the present time; yet, it has been suggested to him, that a misconception of his sentiments may be inferred, from what he has omitted to express in page 18. He, therefore, takes this opportunity of observing, that the only difference between the qualifications required from a Fellow and a Licentiate, consists in the former being requested to construe a few sentences from a Greek copy of Hippocrates and Aretæus. But, as no gentleman can become a candidate for a Fellowship, until he has been admitted a Doctor of Medicine at one of the English Universities, and, to attain to that honour, he *must have given* several proofs of his acquaintance with the Greek tongue, this part of the examination in Warwick-lane is quite immaterial.

No one, it is presumed, will attempt to maintain, that a *full and sufficient knowledge* of Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, and Therapeutics, to form a superior Practitioner, can be obtained at Oxford or at Cambridge; but that these *must* be studied to advantage in London, or Edinburgh, and, the sources of instruction being alike open to those, who are designed for Physicians, Surgeons, or Apothecaries, the superiority of talent, as a Practitioner, will be possessed by the most diligent, whatever may be his *nominal* distinction in society. The principal advantage of the University being to *secure* a good literary education, and the emoluments of a Fellowship in the Royal College of Physicians.

The period of more than ten years, however, which must be passed in keeping the terms of an University, before a Doctor's degree can be obtained, and the occasional absence of gentlemen from College during the intervals, afford an excellent opportunity of pursuing the *essential* studies, above alluded to, with sueccss.